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LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT OPENS 3 APRIL

PA040410 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] The Latin American Parliament will be installed tomorrow in a ceremony to be held in the Vista Room of the Supreme Court of Justice. Rodolfo Maldonado, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Honduran Congress, has reported on the arrival of foreign delegations that will participate in this international assembly.

[Begin recording] I would say that between 85 and 90 percent of the delegations registered for participation in the Latin American Parliament are already here. I can report also that we have a delegation of observers from Canada. The delegations of Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Netherlands Antilles, Curacao, and Cuba are already here. This evening we are expecting the arrival of the delegations from Panama and the Dominican Republic. The Honduran delegation will be arriving tomorrow. Once these delegations arrive, attendance will be almost 100 percent, if not 100 percent, for the Latin American Parliament meeting. [end recording]

COSTA RICA'S GUTIERREZ ON CONTADORA GOALS

PA040403 Paris AFP in Spanish 0044 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] San Jose, 3 Apr (AFP) -- Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez today reiterated the need for the United States and Cuba to openly participate in the Contadora Group peace efforts for the Central American region. Gutierrez, whose tenure ends 8 May, said "that it is evident" that the East-West conflict projects itself in the Central American crisis, and because of this, it would be convenient to seat Washington and Havana at the negotiating table.

However, Gutierrez announced that he will oppose U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan contras being discussed by the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group, the Support Group, and the Central American countries, who will meet in Panama next weekend. The Costa Rican foreign minister commented: "I cannot see how one can discuss or negotiate on this type of affair if one of the parties involved (United States) is not present."

Gutierrez pointed out that on the other hand, last week's military clashes at the border region between Honduras and Nicaragua "is a valid topic for discussion, as both parties involved will be in Panama." Gutierrez hoped that the foreign ministers' meeting in Panama will allow negotiations to advance regarding the establishment of an international commission for patrol and surveillance between the border of Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

However, the diplomat insisted that Costa Rica and Nicaragua have not entered into any sort of agreement on the topic, adding that "the only things agreed upon up to the present have been certain bases for understandings." Gutierrez emphasized that in order to complete the negotiations on the topic it would be ncessary for a committee of experts to travel along the common border in order to define technical and economic requirements of the plan. He also added that he is awaiting a report from the Contadora Group who "are to inquire on possible sources of financing for this border commission." In this connection, Guterrez said that the presence of European delegates for the weekend meeting in Panama "could be connected" with the seeking of financing for the international patrol of the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border.

ALFONSIN INAUGURATES RIVER PLATE BASIN MEETING

PY032357 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] President Raul Alfonsin said today at the inauguration of the 2nd extraordinary and the 16th ordinary meeting of the River Plate Basin, that the River Plate Basin now offers us an appropriate scenario to test our convictions and to fulfill our desire to work together. Alfonsin also recalled that 20 years ago, from that same San Martin Palace, an invitation was made by the foreign minister of Arturo Illia's government to meditate, analyze, and undertake together actions and works related to an orderly administration of the River Plate Basin and to the full use of its resources.

After praising the character and actions of Dr Miguel Angel Zavala Ortiz, foreign minister during Illia's administration, President Alfonsin named the actions already taken by the River Plate Basin organization. President Alfonsin ended his speech by saying that integration among our nations is no longer a mere proposition by academics and visionaries but the inescapable demand of our own realities.

After President Alfonsin left San Martin Palace, the foreign ministers of the River Plate Basin, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay, elected Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo as chairman of the meeting together with the organizer of this special meeting, Minister Angel Scagliotti. Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias was the first speaker to address the meeting, and he spoke in favor of cooperation among the countries of the basin, aimed at achieving an integration which will increase the resources of the five nations forming the organization. Later, Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez recalled that a new path toward integration is open now and that it will require new methodology to follow it. He also pointed out that the lack of a new international economic order, added to the application by the northern countries of new protectionist measures and the cruel pressure of the bankers conspire against the spirit of integration, which inspired the countries of the Basin.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto Costa de Abreu Sodre also addressed the participants of the inauguration meeting, speaking of the importance of the natural resources of the basin. The last speaker was Paraguayan Foreign Minister Carlos Augusto Saldivar, who gave a list of projects still waiting for approval, and expressed Paraguay's desire to contribute to their implementation.

The foreign ministers later left the meeting to participate at the luncheon hosted by Dante Caputo at an important hotel in this capital.

ARMED FORCES CHIEFS OF STAFF RECALL FALKLAND WAR

PY031314 [(Editorial Report)] Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish at 1840 GMT on 2 April 1986 carries an 800-word wrap-up of the Armed Forces chiefs of staff messages marking the occasion of the anniversary of the Malvinas war.

In a message that was read at noon today at all the naval garrisons and institutions, Navy Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Ramon Antonio Arosa stated that "4 years ago today the Argentine joint forces returned the Malvinas Islands to our territory, in a landing operation that deserves to be called exemplary because it achieved its objectives under difficult conditions and without bloodshed."

Arosa's message goes on to praise those who later died defending their country and states that "their memory encourages and inspires us to continue fulfilling our duty." Likewise, Air Force Chief of Staff Brigadier Ernesto Crespo's message was read at the main ceremony held at the military Air Force headquarters. In this message Crespo voices the hope that "those of us who survived the Malvinas War will have as much courage as those heroes who shed their blood so that the institution may continue on "the path of sacrifice and courage" taken by our martyrs. In his message, Crespo urges his subordinates to join the effort to be able to "give our successors an Air Force worthy of that force that showed the enemy that it did not swear in vain to defend its flag with its life." Army Chief of Staff General Hector Rios Erenu's message was read during a ceremony that took place this morning at the Libertador Building. In his message Erenu urged that "that heroic action that allowed our national flag to once again flutter at the top of a mast in Puerto Argentino encourage us to improve our training and our combat ability." He also stated that "the sacrifices were not made in vain, because the lives that were lost stand as a testimony before the world and history of a just cause."

CAPUTO ON C.A. CIVILIAN COMMISSION, FALKLANDS

PY032321 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1515 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Beunos Aires, 3 Apr (NA) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has stated that the Argentine Government will study thoroughly a Nicaraguan proposal to create a civilian surveillance commission on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border if this request is made by all the Central American countries because "we cannot support what we are condemning, namely, intervention" in the internal affairs of other nations. On the other hand, Caputo ruled out the possibility that the Latin American countries will be forced to choose between the Contadora Group and the Consensus of Cartagena. He said that "I do not believe that we will have to stop cooperating in [the efforts to overcome] the Central American crisis in order to overcome the foreign debt issue."

In statements made at the conclusion of the morning session of the second special meeting of foreign ministers of the River Plate Basin, Caputo said that the installation of a civilian commission on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border "is a complex mechanism that cannot be studied unless it is requested by all the countries involved." On the other hand, Caputo emphasized that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar "is making enormous efforts, advocating dialogue and negotiations over the Malvinas conflict, but is facing the same problem we are facing owing to the intransigence of Mrs Margaret Thatcher." Caputo stated that the British Government "is becoming increasingly isolated in the international scene, while we continue endorsing negotiations which England appears to fear so much."

PEREZ DE CUELLAR ARRIVES IN BUENOS AIRES

PY031828 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1328 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 3 Apr (NA) -- UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar today stated that he "will never stop searching for a peaceful solution to the Malvinas problem" and added that he will again take up the South Atlantic problem at the United Nations, because "this is my permanent concern." President Raul Alfonsin, accompanied by national government and Foreign Ministry officials, welcomed the UN secretary general today at 0940 at the metropolitan airport, where he arrived from Montevideo. In a brief press conference, Perez de Cuellar said that he is "very happy to be in Buenos Aires, with the Argentine people, above all in this new democratic Argentina."

FOREIGN MINISTRY ASKS FOR MANDELA'S RELEASE

PY022158 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1854 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Apr (TELAM) -- The Foreign Ministry has reported that the charge d'affaires of the Republic of South Africa has been summoned in order to reiterate the Argentine Government's unswerving request to achieve the unconditional release of Mr Nelson Mandela by the South African Government. The charge d'affaires was also told about a petition for the release of all those political prisoners who, as is the case with Nelson Mandela, are imprisoned as a result of their struggle against racial discrimination. The communique confirms the Argentine Government's regret over the alarming escalation of violence occurring in that country as a result of the implementation of the unjust apartheid policy and ratifies the opposition of the Argentine Government to any aggression or threats by the South African Government.

BRIEFS

NEW GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS -- The Education and Justice Minister today announced that Francisco Delich has been appointed education secretary to replace Bernardo Sola, who has been appointed Argentine ambassador to Panama. The minister also reported that Rodolfo Perez has been appointed to the National Education, Science, and Culture Coordination Secretariat. [Summary] [Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1950 GMT 20 Mar 86 PY]

INTERIOR SECRETARY SWORN IN -- President Raul Alfonsin today presided over the swearing-in of Interior Secretary Facundo Suarez Lastra. This position has just been created. [Summary] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Mar 86 PY]

MILITARY OFFICIAL PROMOTED -- Buenos Aires, 19 Mar (NA) -- The national executive branch has appointed Lieutenant Colonel Jose Francisco Siciliano as secretary of the Armed Forces Supreme Council replacing Lieutenant General Edgardo Semberoiz. [Summary] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0050 GMT 20 Mar 86 PY]

AMBASSADOR TO U.S. APPOINTED -- Buenos Aires, 10 Mar (DYN) -- The government has officially announced the appointment of Enrique Candioti, currently ambassador to the FRG, as new Argentine ambassador to the United States replacing Lucio Garcia del Solar. Carlos Adelmar Ferro will become ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1431 GMT 10 Mar 86 PY]

MORE ENVOYS SELECTED -- Buenos Aires, 27 Feb (TELAM) -- The Argentine Government has appointed Leopoldo Tettamanti as ambassador to the International Organizations in Geneva and Mario Alfonso Pepe as ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Ambassador Pepe will also act as concurrent ambassador to Oman and Yemen. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0051 GMT 28 Feb 86 PY]

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR NAMED -- The Argentine Government has approved the appointment of Fernando Adan Guzman Cuadra as extraordinary and plenipotentiary Nicaraguan ambassador to Argentina. Guzman Cuadra will replace Ricardo Zambrana Diaz, who has held this post since 1982. [Text] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0203 GMT 18 Mar 86 PY]

DEMONSTRATIONS, ARRESTS REPORTED IN COCHABAMBA

PY020315 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] The Radio Panamericana correspondent in the city of Cochabamba reports that several arrests were made as a result of the demonstrations held yesterday by university students. Our correspondent, Juan Gutierrez, will now report.

[Begin relay, in progress] ...Panamericana from Cochabamba. According to reports made by governmental authorities and Greater University of San Simon officials, 15 people were arrested as a result of demonstrations held yesterday. A few minutes ago governmental authorities and Greater University of San Simon officials reported to the press at the prefect's office that 15 people were arrested as a result of clashes between university students and the forces of order. Out of these 15 people, 10 are university students and the rest do not belong to the Greater University of San Simon, which is of concern to both the governmental authorities and university officials. Shortly before beginning this report, the governmental authorities and university officials were authorized to negotiate the release of the university students. In turn, the prefect has stated that preliminary statements are being taken and that afterward, the university students will reportedly be set free provided that the university's rector, Dr (Jorge Triboandia), provides guarantees for the arrested students. [end relay]

On the other hand, the Cochabamba police have released an official report on the demonstrations held yesterday. Our correspondent says that at the time of his report, that is, at about 1230, new demonstrations were being held in Cochabamba.

[Begin relay] In addition, through a communique forwarded to the [word indistinct] and communications, the police have reported that a person was caught in the very act of hurling a Molotov cocktail against the offices of the (Unioncard) company. In addition, some attacks were perpetrated against the buildings housing the Bolivian American Bank and the Toyota Import company. Nevertheless, the prefect said that demonstrators will no longer be allowed access to the main square. At this time, that is, at 1227, new demonstrations are taking place in the suburban areas in the city of Cochabamba. [end relay] This was the information relayed by the Radio Panamericana correspondent in the city of Cochabamba.

POLICE PROTECT PALACE FROM DEMONSTRATORS

PY040312 Paris AFP in Spanish 0202 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 3 Apr (AFP) -- Police forces today surrounded the main square of La Paz, where the Presidential Palace is located, in order to protect it from thousands of students, teachers, and university administrative workers who are demanding that the budget allocations for education be increased. The police are equipped with teargas launchers, truncheons, and shields to handle the street riots of demonstrators who are protesting the government's indifference toward their requests.

In the morning, primary and high-school students held a rally in front of the Congressional Building, where Education Minister Enrique Ipina was being questioned by the Chamber of Deputies.

Interior Minister Fernando Berthelemy warned that no outrages by teachers and students would be permitted and all acts of violence would be repressed. The minister did not rule out the possibility of arresting the leaders and imposing a state of siege in the country.

Meanwhile, education workers dismissed for not having started classes -- approximately 75,000 teachers -- have decided to stage a mass hunger strike to last until they obtain substantial salary raises. This hunger strike has received the support of private schools that will strike for 48 hours.

The problems besieging the government are being worsened by regional strikes, street violence, and other protest measures that are being organized by the Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB) and the National Committee for the Defense of Education.

La Paz Students, Police Clash

PY040400 Paris AFP in Spanish 0339 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 3 Apr (AFP) -- University students and policemen clashed today in the downtown avenues of this capital as the students held a protest demonstration over lack of attention to their budget demands. The students hurled stones at the policemen, who responded with tear gas, leaving the streets of El Prado Promenade completely deserted, although the demonstrators reorganized their pickets to harrass the policemen. University sources have reported that a social communications student was injured by a tear gas cannister and that the students will continue with their protests until the executive branch meets their demands.

It was noted that the university budget was cut by half and that for this reason all the Bolivian universities could be closed. Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy has announced that the police and security forces will act very severely to prevent outbursts and mentioned the possibility of arresting [student] leaders and enforcing a stage of siege.

COB CALLS NATIONAL STRIKE FOR 7 APRIL

PY040356 Paris AFP in Spanish 0316 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 3 Apr (AFP) -- Labor leader Walter Delgadillo has reported that a national meeting of leaders of the Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB) today decided to call a general strike with popular mobilization on 7 April as a demonstration of repudiation of the government's educational policy. Delgadillo stated that the 24-hour strike is the most clear demonstration of the concern of the workers and popular sectors regarding Bolivian education, a sector that has practically been abandoned by the executive branch in its 1986 budget. He also stated that the strike will have singular importance, because UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will be in Bolivia, and he will be able to observe the true national reality. The labor leader stressed that the COB is seeking an interview with Perez de Cuellar to inform him about the situation of Bolivian workers.

For their part, the leaders of the educational sector have charged that the government is firing 75,000 teachers, who will begin a massive hunger strike on 7 April as an answer to the official measure and demanding a salary increase. The average salary of the teachers is $25 dollars per month.

POLICE, DEMONSTRATORS CLASH IN CALAMA, ARICA

PY030348 Paris AFP in Spanish 0303 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Calama, Chile, 2 Apr (AFP) -- The Chilean Carabineros tonight arrested 12 demonstrators during violent demonstrations that broke out at the end of a mass in Calama Cathedral to commemorate the first anniversary of the murder of 3 communist professions. Some hours later a blackout left this city, 1,550 km north of Santiago, in the dark. The confrontations took place in the neighborhood of the main plaza, when hundreds of miners, students, teachers and other people shouted slogans against General Augusto Pinochet's government. The police, using tear gas and truncheons, repelled the demonstrators, who demanded the clearing up of the kidnapping and murder of Santiago Nattino, Jose Manuel Parada and of Manuel Guerrero, whose bodies, with their throats cut, were found in the neighborhood of Santiago's international airport.

Prior to the blacking out of the city, groups of demonstrators destroyed the windows and neon signs of shops, while tear gas made it impossible to breathe in the downtown area of this mining city. Witnesses told AFP that in some sectors of the outskirts of Calama the demonstrators built barricades and that there were some confrontations with the police.

The incidents took place some 20 km from the Chuquicamata mine, the world's largest open-pit mine, where during the afternoon approximately 2,500 miners paraded, shouting antigovernment slogans. In Arica, 2,100 km north of Santiago, the police detained 12 members of the opposition who were participating, together with dozens of teachers and students, in a meeting that took place at the headquarters of the teachers union and that had been called to recall the triple murder. Union sources indicated that a woman teacher was injured by a tear gas bomb. Radio reports indicate that the action took place after Carabineros had dispersed a peaceful march in the downtown area of Arica. At the headquarters of the Teachers Professional Association the police launched tear gas bombs for 30 minutes and kept the place surrounded with approximately 50 people inside. These persons were allowed later to leave the sector without any problem.

TEACHERS CONTINUE DEMONSTRATIONS IN SANTIAGO

PY030246 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] New demonstrations against the regime of Augusto Pinochet have taken place in Chile. We are linked now, via satellite, with Radio Chilena in Santiago to elaborate on this matter. Good afternoon, Liliana Sepulveda.

[Begin relay] Good afternoon. Several ceremonies have been held here in Santiago in the past few days to commemorate the first anniversary of the killing of professionals Jose Manuel Parada, Santiago Nattino, and Manuel Guerrero. A political-cultural rally was held last night in a theater in downtown Santiago. Upon its conclusion, the rally was strongly repressed by members of the uniformed police.

The celebrations marking the day of mourning called by the Trade Union of Chilean Teachers [AGEC], which had been presided over by Manuel Guerrero, began early this afternoon. Carabineros have repeatedly made attempts to break up the demonstrators, who again gather throughout Santiago's districts. This is all we can report from Radio Chilena in Santiago for Radio Nacional in Buenos Aires. [end recording]

Thank you very much, Liliana Sepulveda from Radio Chilena.

SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, RADICAL UNION APPROVE MERGER

PY031438 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 28 Mar 86 p C-3

[Text] Bernardo Echeverria and Nery Valenzuela have reported in a public statement that on 27 March the Radical Union officially approved the decision to merge with the Social Democratic Party. They said that in view of the uncertainty caused by political disagreements among the democratic sectors, the Radical Union has decided to promote "cohesion among the sectors and independent citizens who love democracy and believe it to be the best form of government."

They have also stated that with this purpose in mind, the Radical Union has decided to merge with the Chilean Social Democrats, a political sector, they said, with which there exists a "fundamental point of agreement regarding principles characterized by the common desire to introduce democratic socialism, a principle promoted as an ideal by the old Radical Party and which is by nature against every type of totalitariansim and dictatorship."

PDC'S VALDES DISCUSSES VIOLENCE, CIVILIAN FRONT

PY031406 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 2 Apr 86 p C3

[Text] Christian Democratic Party [PDC] President Gabriel Valdes has expressed his regret regarding the incidents that occurred on Monday, 31 March, in Santiago, stating that his party long ago warned about the process of escalating violence that is taking place in the country. Commenting on the incidents, Valdes attributed the violence to the procedures being implemented by the government. He added that he has been discussing this situation from the political rostrum, and that foreigners have been noting for many years "the process of growing polarization and hatred ending in violence." Valdes said that these incidents are taking place because of the current circumstances and that they are reprehensible in themselves "but are part of a violent situation" which is to be blamed on the government.

In addition, Valdes yesterday criticized the statements Colonel Hernan Nunez, the director of civil organizations, made about his party and the Democratic Alliance [AD]. In response to the government official, Valdes stated that the report by UN Human Rights observer Fernando Volio on Human rights in Chile has drawn clear concepts "establishing the character and the significance of what is taking place in the country."

Gabriel Valdes, who spoke during an impromptu press conference, said that the PDC fully supports the call made by Dr Juan Luis Gonzalez, the chairman of the medical association, who urged the formation of a civilian front. Valdes said that the problems that have arisen inside the AD are of "lesser importance" and have not affected the existence of the opposition organization. "We want to reshape the AD in an organization that makes proposals, a group of parties that has common idea of what the future democracy must be like, and a place to review and propose programs for the country's democratic future," he said. Valdes stated that, in his opinion, the charter of the opposition organization will not remain unchanged. "We believe that there are some operational aspects that must be changed," Valdes concluded.

POPE NOT TO MEET GUERRILLA LEADERS DURING VISIT

PA030420 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0204 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The president of the Episcopal Conference, Msgr Hector Rueda Hernandez, reported today that Pope John Paul II will not meet with guerrilla leaders during his visit to Colombia next July. Rueda, archbishop of Bucaramanga, in the northeast of the country, answered questions on the desire of the FARC and M-19 leaders to examine the national situation with the pope.

In a news conference, Msgr Rueda Hernandez stated that "the pontiff's program in Colombia has been approved in its entirety by the Holy See, and it is so tightly scheduled that there will be not time for granting more audiences." Rueda added that "the groups -- subversive or not -- who want to obtain an audience with the pope during his stay in Colombia, will have to give up." Nevertheless he assured that the bishopric has so far not received any request for an interview of John Paul II.

The prelate indicated that in the case of having received "timely" the request for interviews, "any reply would have been left to the consideration and prudence of his holiness."

ESPIONAGE NETWORK DISCOVERED IN DEFENSE MINISTRY

PA040434 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Excerpts] The Colombian Government has discovered an espionage network within the Defense Minstry, comprised of four women and one man. According to the newspaper EL TIEMPO, they are Luzmary Guerra Luna, Luz Mercedes Pardo de Villamor, Carmen Rosa Sandoval, and Sacramento Lozano Ramirez, who worked as secretaries, and Sergeant Jairo Henry Vaca. All come from the 10th Army Brigade. The band has been stealing documents classified as military secrets and apparently turning them over to the guerrillas in the country.

M-19 DOCUMENT ANNOUNCES NEW MILITARY STRATEGY

PA032356 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2011 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Bogota, 3 Apr (DPA) -- The Colombian guerrilla organization M-19 has admitted that guerrillas have reached their end as a project in the country "because they cannot guarantee to reach power by themselves." The movement said that it has initiated a new military strategy that "will enable it to destroy the fighting ability of the oligarchs' army" on the streets of big cities. In a clandestine document entitled "Campaign Stories" that the M-19 has sent to international news agencies, the subversive group states that in March it initiated "a long-cherished dream to become a popular army that will take the struggle to a higher level."

The bulletin claims that a new stage of the insurrection struggle in Colombia began on 1 January when several M-19 columns began a march in the north of the southwestern Department of Cauca to seek specific conventional war objectives, such as ambushes, attacks, and the participation of a large number of combatants against considerable military forces, such as the Colombian Battalion and its special antiguerrilla units. The document indicates that the plan took shape on 12 March when hundreds of guerrillas arrived in the hills around Cali -- Colombia's third largest city -- and fought troops of the Army's 3d division for several hours. According to the communique, for its new strategy, the M-19 organized the preliminary forces of what purports to be the people's army with Colombian combatants and foreigners of the Ecuadoran Alfaro Lives movement, the Peruvian Tupac Amaru II Revolution Movement and others from several Latin American countries.

GARCIA DISCUSSES INFLATION, IMF, SINACOSO

PY032323 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Excerpts] President Alan Garcia today announced that a large dam will be constructed on the Manchay River to store 50 million cubic meters of water and supply the villages south of Lima with running water. The president visited the area as well as Villa Salvador, Villa Maria del Triunfo, and La Costa Verde. Garcia reiterated his position in defense of freedom of expression. He also spoke about the country's economic situation and relations with the IMF, and he denied any cabinet reforms.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr President, is this the first of a series of projects you planned for your administration?

[Garcia] Well, apart from the economic stabilization, which I think we are managing to attain -- because in the first 3 months of the year the inflation rate was 50 percent of that registered in the same period last year -- we must carry out some projects of social importance. One of these is the irrigation program of almost 100,000 hectares in (Chavimochi) in the north, La Libertad Department. Another project is that of the Chachis River in Ayacucho, which is a historic vindication of the Ayacucho people. Lima also needs this kind of project to guarantee a supply of running water, something that is fundamental for urban development.

[Reporter] Mr President, to use your own words saying that there is a good economic evolution during the first 3 months of the year, could this be considered perhaps as....

[Garcia, interrupting] Not as bad, it is not as bad. I am not all that optimistic, because I do not believe that things have been solved. I simply mean that the economic situation is not as bad as it was last year.

[Reporter] Could this help convince our creditors that the Peruvian position toward the foreign debt is correct?

[Garcia] Well, apart from that, what we must celebrate is that the economy is gradually attaining a level more compatible with the needs of the people. Inflation during the first 3 months of 1985 was almost 35 percent. Inflation during the same period this year was 15 percent. This means that we are progressing. Life and politics are teaching us that realism and revolution mean that we must understand that any transformation must come gradually, but safely. We cannot say that inflation dropped to zero in 1 day, we whould be deceiving everyone, including ourselves. The important thing is that inflation is falling gradually and this requires patience to overcome the very serious problem we inherited.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Garcia] Well, I think that the country has demonstrated its patience for a long time. I do not think we can ask for any more because Peru has had to tolerate many things in the last few years.

[Reporter] Regarding the economy, can you confirm that some IMF delegates are withdrawing from the country?

[Garcia] Well, you know that the IMF has two aspects. It is a bank that lends us money and to which we owe money, but it is also an organization that watches excessively the economy of some countries as if it were an economic policeman that informs the rest of the world banks about a country's economic behavior. To comply with this task, it gives us recommendations, imposes certain policies on us, such as the ones applied during the past administrations and which led us to this current situation, that is, to our economic destruction.

Since the beginning we have refused to follow any policy different from the one chosen by the Peruvian people on 14 April. This is why, when the IMF proposed sending a commission to study our national economy and propose policies, we said that the people had not chosen this alternative and they had not voted for anyone to intervene in our economy. We do not accept commissioners or viceroys like the IMF. There was a contract signed by the former government allowing an IMF commission to remain in Peru. This commission's term has now ended and we will not renew the contract. This means that we will now be completely independent from any foreign intervention, participation, or presence.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Mr President, don't you think that it may harm (?the image) of the country?

[Garcia] Not at all, on the contrary, Peru will gain more respect, dignity, sovereignty and independence. One can be very poor, but one must be worthy and free, this is the important thing. One must not become an economic servant through intervention.

[Reporter] Mr President, what are Peru's current ties with the IMF?

[Garcia] The normal ones of a debtor with a bank to whom it owes money and which, naturally, is trying to collect the debt owed.

[Reporter] What special proposal are you taking to Montevideo?

[Garcia] Well, there are many economic issues from which we expect to obtain some mutual positive results. For example, you know that we are learning, beginning to get used to eating lamb in our country. Well, we have another important idea. Why don't we eat lamb from our own production by renewing our flocks with better, improved, foreign breeds? We will talk about this in Uruguay.

[Reporter] Mr President, may we speak about the government's decision to dissolve the National Social Communication System [Sistema Nacional de Comunicacion Social -- Sinacoso]?

[Garcia] Well, we proposed this during our election campaign. We do not see any reason for the existence of an organization to regulate the media. As you know, the Central Information Office was created during the military regime to control the television channels and newspapers belonging to the rulers, not to the country.

We think that the worst thing that can be done is to suppress freedom of opinion or expression, taking into consideration all the risks. Of course some abuses do occur, but this is the risk of democracy itself and one must learn how to overcome these risks. We believe that a ruler must be exposed to criticism, to healthy, well-intentioned criticism, so it is not necessary for the state to control any radio or television stations, or newspaper.

We have returned to Mr (Cavero Dubois) nearly 30 radio stations that were confiscated from him during the military regime and which the former government did not return. We have dissolved the Sinacoso and guaranteee press freedom through a draft bill in Congress. We also have a news agency that is meant to present news from a Peruvian point of view. We cannot depend solely on the international news agencies, which have their own ideological points of view. Peru must have its own teletypes to report its own points of view.

[Reporter] There are some rumors that there could be a cabinet shuffle in the next few months, could you confirm these rumors?

[Garcia] Well, by reading a magazine I learned that I am about to change the prime minister. I do not see why I should change what is working very well. I think that the prime minister is doing a good job and I have publicly and privately told him so. It is evident that the results of the government's economic and general policies are gradually improving our situation, after nearly 250-percent inflation. We are making an immense effort with the people's support to reduce this inflation gradually.

In the next few days I belive we will launch a new offensive to keep all Peruvians alert, to prevent inflation from running wild again, to prevent the following psychological belief: I should increase my prices in case things change in the future. We must control all this, but I have no complaints against the ministers, and the prime minister is doing his job well, to the best of my knowledge.
[end recording]

WAGNER PREVIEWS GARCIA'S URUGUAYAN AGENDA

PY030135 Paris AFP in Spanish 2041 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 2 Apr (AFP) -- Last night Foreign Minister Allan Wagner announced that President Alan Garcia, during his visit to Uruguay on 10 and 11 April, will discuss the recent political uncertainty created by the United States in Central America, among other important subjects. The Peruvian foreign minister, who will accompany the young president during his visit, said that the U.S. attitude in the region leads to neither peace nor democracy.

He explained that if the U.S. Congress approves the economic aid to the contras, the Contadora Group and the Lima Support Group will have to decide whether to break relations or not. He said that to stimulate a tense atmosphere in the area will lead to neither peace nor democracy.

Announcing that during his address to the Uruguayan Congress the Peruvian president will make an appeal for Latin American unity, Wagner also said that the foreign debt and the Central American crisis are the main subjects to be discussed by the two chiefs of state. Wagner noted that Garcia will visit Uruguay 7 days after UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar visits that country.

The foreign minister also disclosed that the Peruvian and Chilean high military commands will meet in Lima shortly, but did not discuss the date. He said that the first phase of this meeting, which is related to the diplomatic arrangements for the general guidelines and the subjects to be discussed regarding the reduction of arms expenditures, is almost ready. He said that the technical aspects of the reduction of arms expenditures will be discussed during the second phase of the talks.

Minister Wagner said that President Alan Garcia's proposal of 28 July -- when he assumed his post -- is of a regional scope. Therefore, we believe that this reduction of arms will not only be carried out by Chile and Peru but also that the remaining Latin American countries will gradually follow suit. After noting that this meeting will allow the setting of a foundation for a more coordinated and precise organization, he said that all this should be the result of a gradual process based on firm concepts, in which all the countries involved in this accord may feel that their security and peace are guaranteed.

He ended by stating that this should not only refer to the military and political field but also to the cultural and economic fields, among others.

MISSION TO OFFER ARMS, SHIPS TO ARAB COUNTRIES

PY032159 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1745 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 3 Apr (EFE) -- A Peruvian economic and commercial mission, which on 6 April will begin a 33-day tour through Arab countries, will be offering a number of Peruvian-made arms and various types of ships. According to a report released by the press assistant the above-mentioned mission will be headed by Senator Miguel Angel Mufarech. Among the arms to be offered there is a 28.5-cm [as received] mini-submachinegun, with silencer, designed and built entirely in Peru by the Maritime Industrial Service (SIMA). The production rate of this submachinegun is 2,000 units per month and it is expected that this rate will be increased to 4,000, resulting in a yearly export capability of $10 million. SIMA also manufactures a Colt revolver under a U.S. license.

The SIMA shipyards are also in a position to build 45,000-ton ships. SIMA has already built grain ships, tankers, merchant ships, motor ships, floating docks, and warships, including missile-fitted frigates.

BRIEFS

HUANUCO DRUG RAID -- Lima, 3 Apr (AFP) -- Police sources today reported that a total of 29 tons of basic cocaine paste, ready for shipment to Colombia, 3 clandestine airstrips, 13 boats, 31 guns, sophisticated laboratories, and other equipment have been seized during police raids in the middle of the jungle in Tingo Maria, Huanuco Department, 422 km east of Lima. The sources satted that Colombian drug trafficker Luis Bengumeda and three Peruvian drug traffickers, whose identifies were not disclosed, were arrested during the raid, emphasizing that the basic cocaine paste consignment is the largest seized so far in 1986. [Excerpt] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1908 GMT 3 Apr PY]

6TH APRA MAYOR KILLED -- Lima, 3 Apr (EFE) -- Churubamba mayor Hugo Miraval Solorzano, 40, has been murdered by alleged members of the Shining Path. Miraval is the sixth mayor from the social democratic APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] party to have been killed since 1984. Churubamba is located in Huanuco Department, in a jungle region in northern Peru. Two United Left mayors have also been killed in this area. All these actions have been attributed to the Shining Path. [Excerpt] [Lima EFE in Spanish 1355 GMT 3 Apr PY]

UN SECRETARY GENERAL ADDRESSES CONGRESS

PY031738 Paris AFP in Spanish GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 2 Apr (AFP) -- United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said here today that the measures adopted to solve the foreign debt crisis are partial solutions that have thus far applied to the symptoms and not to the real causes of the crisis.

Perez de Cuellar, who is touring four South American countries, delivered a speech before the Uruguayan Congress on the 2d day of his visit to Uruguay. The UN secretary general also met with President Julio Maria Sanguinetti and Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias.

In his speech, Perez de Cuellar said that the world's debt has posed a threat to the world economy. The world's debt has not jeopardized the stability of the international financial system because the parties involved have decided to cooperate instead of engaging in a useless confrontation, he stressed.

According to Perez de Cuellar, creditors do not want to ruin debtors because if they did the loans would not be repaid. On the other hand, debtors will not gain anything by declaring themselves unable to repay their debts, because their ratings will be impaired and they will not be granted any new loans. The UN secretary general said that even though it has been admitted that it is necessary to cooperate, the measures -- primarily financial in nature -- which have been adopted so far may not solve the crisis. In addition, such measures are economically inconsistent and politically unwise, he stressed.

Perez de Cuellar commented on the strict economic adjustment plans applied by the debtors, the protectionist barriers imposed by the industrialized nations, and the slump in raw material prices. It would be a serious mistake to let workers despair and to discourage investors, who are essential for the region's development and for the survival of the new democratic governments, he said. He warned that the mere fact that the international financial system has not been allowed to collapse has not solved the debt problem, adding that nothing will be achieved until the debtors are able to resume growth. The debt crisis has long-term effects and calls for more efficient measures, because the current solutions have thus far applied to the symptoms rather than to the real causes, he stressed.

Perez de Cuellar said he will make a special effort in western countries to promote international support, for more equitable relations between the North and the South. In his speech, Perez de Cuellar praised representative democracy and said that the United Nations and the democratic countries share a common belief in their respect for the rights of men. He said that a democrat is usually referred to as a man of principle, as opposed to the man who heads authoritarian regimes and who is usually cynical and violent. It is better to convince than impose, and to reconcile instead of confront, he said adding that reason is better than fanaticism.

Perez de Cuellar is scheduled to travel to Buenos Aires on 3 April.

U.S. HOUSE SPEAKER ARRIVES IN CARACAS FOR VISIT

PA031525 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Thomas O'Neill, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, arrived in Venezuela tonight in response to an invitation from the Venezuelan National Congress. Mr O'Neill was greeted by the president and vice pesident of Congress, Reinaldo Leandro Mora and Leonardo Ferrer respectively. During his stay in Caracas he will meet with Venezuelan parliamentarians.

CONSALVI COMMENTS ON UPCOMING CONTADORA MEETING

PA031248 Hamburg DPA in English 0125 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Caracas, 2 Apr (DPA) -- Today Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi said in Caracas that it is still "difficult" to make significant decisions within the framework of Contadora Group.

In his statements to the press this afternoon, Consalvi made brief comments about the next meeting in Panama of the members of the Contadora Group with the foreign ministers of the Support Group (Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay) and the Central American foreign ministers. Consalvi said: "This will be the first opportunity in the search for a negotiated solution to the conflict where we will have a straightforward round-table discussion of the problem."

The minister believes that "it is possible" that one of the matters to be discussed will be to set specific dates to approve the document, and he added: "The political will depends on the most antagonistic countries in the area. This is one of the matters that we will explore during this very interesting meeting this weekend in Panama. It is probable that we will determine which countries have the determination to seek a negotiated agreement."

Responding to a journalist, Consalvi warned: "The rumors about the death of Contadora are very subjective." He added: "Regarding the death, there have been many statements, in the United States as well as in other nations. However, the basic principles that drive the group's efforts are receiving more international support day by day."

Consalvi pointed out: "This will be the first time that the Contadora, Support Group, and Central American ministers meet in Panama, and we will have a representative from the EEC, Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek, who will represent the message of solidarity and support of this international organization to the Contadora Group efforts."

Regarding Venezuela's position on the Central American process, the minister said: "Venezuela is not leading it; Venezuela has joined the collective effort of Latin America, represented by the eight nations of Contadora and the Support Group." He added: "Any one of us could take the leading position because the eight nations have the same perception of the Central American problem, but we do not want to be singled out in one way or another because we believe that the power of this effort is closely linked to the coherence and consistency of the unity of the Latin American countries."

Finally, Consalvi said that the prospects of the meeting in Panama "are very uncertain" because the antagonism "as well as the inflexibility are increasing. However, I believe that there will be a very open discussion with the Central American countries for the reaffirmation of the peace process, the signing of the Contadora document, and stability and security in Central America."

PEMEX DIRECTOR DENIES OIL EXPORT CHANGES

FL032216 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2045 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 3 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Pemex director Mario Ramon Beteta has said that the price of exporting Mexican hydrocarbons will continue to fluctuate in accordance with the international market. The official denied that Pemex's exports are being maintained at 1.5 million barrles daily and at the moment there are no possibilities for modifying the export policy.

Despite the instability of international oil prices, it is advantageous for Mexico to export oil because of the low production costs, said Ramon Beteta. The Pemex director stressed that oil deposits are located in strategic places which allow for considerable savings in production.

L.A. AMBASSADORS DISCUSS FOREIGN DEBT TREATMENT

FL030256 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2335 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Some Latin American countries will have to declare a moratorium on foreign debt payments and then the international banks might accept renegotiation. This was expressed by ambassadors in Mexico from several Latin American countries. They also expressed that only through solidarity could their voices be heard during netotiations of a political character and not economic. They said that there is no Latin American country that has the resources to pay its foreign debt and adequate political solutions are needed from industrialized countries.

For his part, Brazilian Ambassador Geraldo Egidio da Costa Cavalcanti said the debt should be paid without sacrificing the economic growth of developing countries and that the United States and other creditor nations have tried to obstruct the work of the Council of Cartagena which is calling for a new international order. Argentine Ambassador Facundo R. Suarez said that factors like decreasing foreign trade and falling raw material prices, such as oil, make the possibility of foreign debt payment more unlikely for developing countries. Honduran Ambassador Ricardo Apineda Milla proposed that creditor and debtor countries search for adequate mechanisms so the Latin American people are not seriously compromised by the international banks' payment demands which affect the economic growth of developing countries.

Peruvian Ambassador Juan de la Piedra and Venezuelan Ambassador Guido Groscoors indicated that the foreign debt should be liquidated under reasonable conditions since annual interest payments alone are a large part of the resources earned from exports. Costa Rican Ambassador Angel Edmundo Solano Calderon concluded by saying that political negotiations should be established with debtor nations and that foreign debt requirements should be changed.

BRIEFS

TRADE BALANCE -- The positive side of the trade balance has been reduced by 34.4 percent in 1985. Manufacturing exports decreased 4.1 percent in 1985, as opposed to a 26-percent increase in 1984. A deficit occurred in the manufacturing trade balance in each of the years 1980-1985. In addition, imports increased by 1.7 times in 1985. As a result, the manufacturing trade deficit has increased again. [Summary] [Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 17 Mar 86 p 3 PA]

COSTA RICA

MONGE 'EMPHATICALLY REJECTS' ORTEGA PROTEST

PA031710 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 27 Mar 86 p 2

["Telex" sent by President Luis Alberto Monge to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega on 26 March]

[Text] [Mr President:]

Allow me to make the following clarifications regarding your cable of 24 March:

The meeting of the vice presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras has been called to discuss my proposal for the reactivation of trade between these countries contained in letters sent to President Suazo, Mejia, and Duarte on 26 August 1985 and personally delivered to them by Vice President Arauz. The proposal was discussed during a meeting of presidential envoys that took place in February this year.

Although the two actions were public knowledge, the Nicaraguan Government expressed no adverse reaction to them at the time they took place. This is why I am deeply surprised when, 9 months after I made the proposal, Nicaragua considers that it conceals aggressive purposes against that country.

The fact that Nicaragua was not included in the vice presidents' meeting bears absolutely no relation to proposals like those set forth by the democratic community of Central America or the forum for peace and democracy. It is not a "scheme" by the United States or a third country, as your note irresponsibly and disrespectfully suggested. Nicaragua's situation and its choices regarding economic matters, as well as the different nature of Nicaragua's economic problems, which make impossible its harmonious participation in the proposal, were taken into consideration when the invitations were extended. Additionally, the source that will possibly finance this initiative will not accept Nicaragua as one of its beneficiaries, just as some of Nicaragua's current sources of foreign aid are not willing to extend aid to the other Central American countries.

The meeting's purpose will not be to discuss political affairs. These will be addressed during the Esquipulas meeting, which I presume your country will attend. The vice presidents will only attempt to find solutions to the economic problems their four countries are experiencing. The meeting does not intend, as your government appears to believe, to sidestep negotiations between Central America and the EEC.

It goes without saying that Central America, particularly Costa Rica, is aware that Nicaragua is a geographical and historical entity in Central America that cannot simply be ignored.

Regarding your view that Costa Rica committed an immoral and illegal action by supporting President Duarte's proposal, I must point out that the proposal is based on the spirit of the Contadora Group negotiations to advance processes of reconciliation in the Central American countries. I understand that it is not possible for the current Nicaraguan Government to undertake a process of this nature, but that cannot lead me to concur with your opinion on how Costa Rica should handle its foreign policy. We therefore emphatically reject that opinion, stressing that we have always believed that dialogue is the best means to resolve political problems and that in the same way that we maintain that a dialogue should take place in El Salvador, it is also indispensable that one take place in Nicaragua.

PRESIDENT DENIES BILATERAL PACT WITH NICARAGUA

PA040333 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] The Costa Rican delegation to attend this weekend's Contadora Group meeting to be held in Panama has been instructed by President Luis Alberto Monge to insist on the fact that no agreement on a bilateral pact with Nicaragua has been reached. President Monge said that this meeting of foreign ministers of Central America, the Contadora Group, and the Support Group will be used to clarify the fact that no agreement has been reached with Nicaragua regarding the border issue. The president added that this issue was presented to the world as if an agreement was forthcoming when the truth is that only talks were held and the bases for an overall pact was agreed upon.

Costa Rica's position regarding the regional problems is that a global solution is necessary, President Monge said. The Costa Rican delegation to the Contadora Group meeting will insist that Costa Rica feels that there can be no bilateral solutions but only global solutions to the problems of the region. Therefore, the delegation will explain that the talks for the appointment of a supervisory and control commission at the common border does not include a bilateral agreement with Nicaragua.

PRESIDENT-ELECT ARIAS REVIEWS REGIONAL CONFLICT

PM031457 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 20 Mar 86 p 6

[Interview with President-Elect Oscar Arias by Jose Comas in San Jose -- date not given]

[Excerpt] Question: You recently made statements about assistance for the contras, which caused something of a stir in Washington. It is said that you later backed down. What exactly is your stance?

Answer: I need to be consistent with my campaign and the promises I made to the Costa Rican electorate. One of those promises was to struggle for peace in Costa Rica and in Central America. My stance is bound to be that the disagreements existing in Central America should be resolved by means of dialogue and a diplomatic solution -- not by war. I do not believe that the Salvadoran problem or the crisis experienced by the Nicaraguan people can be resolved by means of war. I have decided to have a far more active foreign policy for Costa Rica and, in view of the prestige we enjoy, to turn Costa Rica into an agent promoting peace and democracy.

Question: There are some specific facts. If the funds are approved in the U.S. Congress, they must be conveyed to certain forces said to be in Honduras and Costa Rica. What chance does the executive power -- the president of Costa Rica -- have of preventing this from happening, this assistance from being handed over to the so-called contra groups?

Answer: If the U.S. Government approves these funds for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, I believe they will go exclusively to the forces now on Honduran territory -- not here in Costa Rica. At least, I sincerely intend to enforce our neutrality. When we offered the Costa Rican people, in the electoral process, our desire to continue neutrality, we were speaking with our hearts on our sleeves -- quite sincerely and frankly. We do not wish to be tolerant toward the Nicaraguans opposed to the Managua regime, to enable them to use our territory for military activity.

In our country we have a great tradition of political asylum, and we want Costa Rica to remain the haven of freedom it has always been. We will make room for Nicaraguans persecuted in their own country who want to avail themselves of our political asylum to live, but that is all. We will never allow them to make use of our hospitality to use Costa Rican territory for military activity.

Question: What real chance does the Costa Rican Government have of controlling that border with Nicaragua, of preventing a provocation from occurring; something that would necessitate saying that the contras must be assisted, or one of another nature?

Answer: So far we have not been able to guarantee our neutrality 100 percent. Costa Rica is a country without an army and with a very rudimentary Civil Guard and Rural Guard. A large proportion of that force must be devoted to guaranteeing the Costa Rican people's security here on the central plateau, where 75 percent of the population live. This has prevented us from being able to devote more human resources to guarantee that the border area is not used by enemies of the Managua government. Precisely for this reason we wish to reach a kind of agreement which will enable us to bring in foreign observers in order to enforce our neutrality and to assure the world of the Costa Rican Government's good faith that its own territory is not being used against or by the anti-Sandinist forces.

Question: A Cuban vice minister recently described you as an "intelligent anti-Sandinist." Do you not wish to join in an anti-Sandinist crusade out of political intelligence, or would you not like the Managua regime to disappear?

Answer: I thank the Cuban official for his description. He is right. On the one hand I am intelligent, and, on the other I am an anti-Sandinist. I do believe, like the great majority of Costa Ricans, that the Managua regime should change, that it should return to what were the original promises to the whole world and Latin America, and even more to Costa Rica. No country helped S dinism more than Costa Rica. We were always told about building a new Nicaragua -- not a second Cuba. Today Costa Rican people of all stripes feel disillusioned, disappointed, and, if you like, betrayed by what has happened over the past 7 years, from 1979 until today. We feel that the setting up of a Marxist-Leninist government in Managua is a betrayal not only of the world but also of the Nicaraguan people, because they never suspected that they were going to exchange one dictatorship for another of a different kind.

Question: A meeting of Central American presidents in Esquipulas, in Guatemala, is scheduled for the days following your investiture in May. Do you believe that a kind of Esquipulas Group -- just as there is a Contadora Group and a Support Group -- could be set up, in which the Central Americans would achieve greater prominence in resolving their own conflicts, or is this unrealistic?

Answer: As the sociologist Max Weber said, the possible is achieved only by struggling for the impossible. It may seem unrealistic, but even if specific results and solutions are not achieved, it seems to me important, even though there are profound differences between us in the ideological field, that we Central American presidents be able to talk and to sit down around a table and explain viewpoints on an agenda on which we would have to agree, because not only political issues allowing coexistence among the various Central American nations should be discussed; the agenda should include economic issues. There is considerable interdependence among the Central American common market and strengthen it. Our people's development depends largely on trade in the Central American area. There are many issues, and we should never shrink from that opportunity for dialogue and creating a forum, even if it is not of a permanent nature, such as the Esquipulas meeting could be. I believe that the idea is worthwhile.

Question: Costa Rica receives considerable assistance from the United States. What chance does the Costa Rican Government have of opposing a request from the U.S. Government to assist those "freedom fighters," or whatever you choose to call them?

Answer: I believe that the United States realizes very well that we offered the electorate peace and a search for political and negotiated solutions to the conflicts experienced by fraternal nations in Central America, and will respect that stance. Dialogue between democracies is always very fruitful. We speak the same language and understand each other well. There must be mutual respect to agree one day and disagree another. I believe that Costa Rica would never expect any retaliation in the economic field because there is some kind of disagreement on foreign policy. I believe that there is a genuine and sincere U.S. desire to assist Costa Rica, especially because we are an exemplary democracy, because there is no country in Central America which has made greater effort to surmount poverty and underdevelopment within a system of democracy, freedom, and peace. We wish to preserve these characteristics. I am absolutely certain that there will be no strings attached to future economic assistance.

Question: Do you believe that Europe -- and, more specifically, Spain -- could play any prominent role in the Central American crisis?

Answer: Undoubtedly. I believe that especially Spain, which has greater knowledge of Latin America and much greater real ties than those that other European countries may have, has a duty toward Latin America, and specifically toward Central America. The assistance Spain could give us is not just in the economic field, because we know its limitations in that field. But it could have considerable influence, as the motherland which it is, in the political sphere. If Spain has taught the world that it is possible to evolve toward an exemplary democracy following an authoritarian government lasting many decades, I believe that it is a good mirror in which many Central American governments can look at themselves. Specifically in the case of Nicaragua, it would be highly desirable for Spain to show the nine commanders that it is possible to set up a really exemplary democracy like the one you have.

RURAL GUARD DEACTIVATES MINES ON BORDER FARM

PA031940 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1833 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Seven powerful mines were found in Costa Rican territory, 1 km from the Nicaraguan border. The mines were found near a house on El Olvido farm on the banks of the San Carlos River. The property is owned by Nicaraguan Calasan Parrales and is located between the Pocosol and (Kubate) Rivers, 1 km from the Nicaraguan border.

Colonel Pedro Arias, deputy director of the Rural Guard, explained that policemen found the mines when they were carrying out an operation to close private airports. He added that Major Luis Alfaro, San Carlos departmental delegate, and officers Edwin Segura, Pocosol district delegate, and Antonio Rodriguez discovered the mines. Apparently a cow stepped on a mine which did not explode. The existence of the mine was reported to the authorities and the police sent the officers to carry out an inspection. Edwin Segura was ordered to deactivate the dangerous explosive devices which can kill a person within a 5-meter radius.

According to the explanation given by Col Pedro Arias, the mines are Czechoslovak-made and contain dynamite and phosphorous. They weigh approximately 3.5 kg, and they contain 500 to 600 flechettes [esquirlas] that are spewed out upon detonation in such a way that anything within 5 meters is destroyed.

The policemen who deactivated the explosive devices reported that they were located on the front and right hand side of the farm house owned by Nicaraguan Calasan Parrales. One of the mines was under a step leading to the front of the house. Whoever climbed the steps would have been blown to pieces. The objective of whoever placed the explosives was to kill Calasan Parrales, an active member of the Nicaraguan counterrevolution who on several occasions has survived other attempts on his life.

The explosive under the step to the house was connected by a thin wire to another device a few meters away. There were four other mines on the right hand side of the house and another concealed behind a tree in front of the house. All of the mines would explode whenever one of them was activated. The house and its occupants would have been hit by more than 4,000 flechetes.

Col Pedro Arias said that the mines will be sent to the Government Ministry and that procedures would be carried out to file another protest to the Nicaraguan Government. Unofficial sources said that since the devices were Czechoslovak-made, it could be presumed that the Sandinist regime was the one that ordered them to be placed. They said that it would be very hard for an individual to buy such explosives in the black market.

CARDINAL OBANDO Y BRAVO RECEIVES PRO-DEMOCRACY AWARD

PA040125 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Summary from poor reception] The Pro-Democracy Association [Aprodem] has presented the Central American Prize to Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo in recognition of his great struggle for democracy in Nicaragua. Political and church representatives were present at the award ceremony that was held at the Colon International Club. Msgr Bismarck Carballo accepted the prize on behalf of Msgr Obando y Bravo. President Luis Alberto Monge was present at the ceremony, and in his speech he praised Obando y Bravo. President Monge said that the award was presented "in recognition of his outstanding work in the defense and promotion of democracy and human liberties."

GUATEMALA

CONGRESS PRESIDENT FAVORS REGIONAL PARLIAMENT

PA030447 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Alfonso Cabrera, president of the Guatemalan Congress, has said that Central America can no longer be the yard where the big powers hold their disputes and that Central Americans should be allowed to mark their own path. When we ask our Central American brothers to support the establishment of a Central American parliament, we are asking them to think things over and realize that only through democracy, clean elections, and respect for ideas and actions in favor of social coexistence, can we overcome the wars and our present situation: the yard in which the big powers are holding their disputes, Cabrera said. That is why I am glad that the Guatemalan delegation to the Latin American Parliament conference, which opens here on Thursday, has submitted a proposal reasserting the Guatemalan people's democratic call and aspirations for progress and development in peace. The Central American parliament should be another mechanism to restore peace in Central America. Cabrera said.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA DISCUSSES CONTRAS, RECENT BORDER INCIDENT

PA031544 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1227 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Telephone interview with President Daniel Ortega by Rodrigo Wong Arevalo -- live]

[Text] [Wong] Good day, Mr President. What prompted you to call Tegucigalpa's Radio America this morning?

[Ortega] Good morning. First of all allow me to greet Radio America and the Honduran people. I seize this opportunity to speak with the Honduran people to reaffirm Nicaragua's disposition for peace and friendship with the Honduran people and Government. We believe this direct contact with the Honduran people is very important because of the Easter week developments during which foreign forces attempted to provoke a confrontation between Honduras and Nicaragua. We maintain that this confrontation did not take place. At no time has Nicaragua attacked Honduras. There is a serious problem in the border area between Honduras and Nicaragua; namely the presence of counterrevolutionary mercenary forces that are attacking Nicaragua. They planned to launch an offensive against several Nicaraguan cities, invade our territory, and attack several cities during Easter week. They planned that this would have repercussions in the U.S. Congress, which would prompt its members to favor President Reagan's request for $100 million for the contras. This plan was to be carried out before the vote by the House of Representatives. Its purpose was to influence the vote there by attempting to show the U.S. Congress that the contras are a powerful force that can defeat the Nicaraguan revolution and that the investment of the $100 million currently being discussed in the U.S. Congress, was therefore warranted.

[Wong] Mr President, you are denying our government's version. It said in a communique that EPS members entered Honduras in what constituted a flagrant violation of Honduras' sovereignty through the eastern border area in Olancho Department, specifically in San Francisco de Capire. A Honduran Government bulletin states the Sandinist forces violated Honduran territory and that in the past other rebels had entered Honduras there. It named Jose Maria Reyes Mata, who died in a skirmish with the Honduran Army. What is your reply to that statement issued by our government several days ago?

[Ortega] There is no link between past events in Honduras that involved the government, like the Reyes Mata case, and this issue we are discussing right now. We are discussing the fact that mercenary forces are in Honduras because the U.S. Government has imposed their presence there, and these forces are the subject of a debate on an allotment of $100 million by the U.S. Congress which will allow them to continue attacking Nicaragua. They attempted to enter Nicaragua from Honduras. Then clashes broke out on the border. Undoubtedly, in a border clash, we cannot rule out the possibility that several Sandinist soldiers may have been present, because the border is not marked in any clearly visible way .... [changes thought] although we are aware that the border is marked off, in the field it is easy to become confused and cross it. There is a [words indistinct] of those forces that are on the other side.

We responded to the communique sent by the Honduran Government by clarifying Nicaragua's position that there is no desire to complicate the situation with the Honduran Government, but stressing that we are determined to defend the national territory from the attacks by the mercenary forces that the United States has imposed in a portion of the Honduran territory. One must keep in mind that President Reagan is discussing at this time the need and his determination to send U.S. military advisers to help the mercenary forces outside of Nicaragua. This means that the U.S. military advisers will have to be somewhere. The Americans have been clear when they have insinuated that these advisers will be in the mercenary forces' camps inside Honduras.

This means that they are even planning the incorporation of military advisers. This complicates the deliberations that Contadora has undertaken that contemplate the withdrawal of all the foreign military advisers from Central America. The Central American governments have expressed their willingness to go along with this as part of the Contadora peace proposal. This includes the military advisers that are in each of the Central American countries, and it would imply a sovereign decision by each of the governments in this sense. We are willing to withdraw the military advisers from the area. However, while attempts are being made to overcome this problem...

[7-second break in transmission] for the mercenary forces.

They have taken possession of part of the Honduran border territory near Nicaragua. This presence is an imposition of the U.S. Government.

We understand that this situation existed before the government of President Azcona assumed power. It was a situation created by General Alvarez and former President Suazo Cordova. They gradually began to yield to the U.S. pressure until the mercenary forces were finally allowed to remain there. In Nicaragua, we are defending ourselves from the attacks launched by those mercenary forces.

[Wong] President Ortega, you called us this morning to deny that the EPS forces entered Honduras. However, would you mind granting us a longer interview this morning, taking advantage of the fact that our station has the largest listening audience in Honduras?

[Ortega] (?All right).

[Wong] Mr President, you have manifestly and repeatedly dismissed the credibility of Honduras' statement that members of your country's Army, the EPS, entered Honduran territory during the first few days of Holy Week. Why have you repeatedly dismissed the credibility of Honduras' admission that its territory was attacked by armed elements from your country's Army?

[Ortega] I am not dismissing any credibility of the Honduran Armed Forces. This is not the question. I am simply trying to clarify a situation that the United States tried to artificially create, because it was in the United States where it was announced that Nicaragua had invaded Honduras, that Nicaragua was attacking Honduras. This is [2-second break in transmission] Honduras and Nicaragua. In other words, we do not believe so. There has not been any attack by Nicaragua against Honduras. Therefore, there has not been any invasion of Honduras by Nicaragua. Any action by a state against another would of course be an extremely serious problem, and Nicaragua has asserted and continues to assert that it will never attack any Central American state.

Therefore, the situation at the border area, which the armed forces [not further identified] communique may reflect, is the one stemming.... [changes thought] What the Armed Forces communique is reflecting is, let us say, that there are elements that stem from the situation that has been created at the border area where we have, on the one hand, the Somozist counterrevolutionary mercenary forces -- all those murderers -- who are trying to invade or to penetrate into our territory, and, on the other hand, Nicaraguan troops at the border to defend our territorial intergrity from those mercenary actions. This is the real situation in the border area.

[Wong] Mr President Ortega, why do you think, then, that the Honduran Government admitted that its territory... [changes thought] that the report in Washington about the violation of Honduran territory by Nicaragua was true? In addition, it admitted having captured a large number of EPS troops in Honduras [1-second break in transmission] Hello, hello... [5-minute break in transmission while attempts to restore communications are made]

[Wong] Nicaraguan President Ortega called basically to say that there has not been an invasion of Honduran territory by Sandinist soldiers. He also roundly said that this is a propaganda ploy of the U.S. Government. However, when we asked for his opinion about the attitude of the Honduran Government, admitting that what was reported in Washington was true and that our territory had been invaded, the communication was cut off.

We had other questions for the Nicaraguan president, but he evidently did not agree to answer any other questions from our station. We regret this because this was an eminently journalistic interview. Radio America had been asked [to allow] the Nicaraguan president to address a message through out station in exchange for granting us an interview and making statements about the latest developments between Honduras and Nicaragua.

[Telephone operator] Please talk now.

[Wong] Good morning, will we continue in contact with you, Mr President?

[Ortega] Yes, of course.

[Wong] We thought you had hung up the telephone because you could not answer the question. I want to caution you that our interview is journalistic in nature, and we do not want to inconvenience you. All we want to do is to clarify some aspects.

[Ortega] No problem. What I can see is that we have problems with communication. I went on talking and did not realize that the transmission had been cut off.

[Wong] Well. I repeatedly asked you the question but in a journalistic spirit.

[Ortega] [Word indistinct] don't worry. Ask whatever you want.

[Wong] Mr President, then, why do you think that Honduras, that the Honduran Government roundly admitted that Washington's assertion that Honduran territory had been invaded by EPS members was true. Why do you think our Honduran Government admitted that?

[Ortega] We heard about a statement issued by the Honduran Foreign Secretariat and described it in the response by our Foreign Ministry as a cautious statement about all of these developments. In other words, we have not found in the Honduran Government a desire for confrontation or a desire to create alarm about this situation, which was actually fabricated by the U.S. President's propaganda machinery.

[Wong] Pardon my insistence, Mr President, but you have not given me a clear answer because, in a bulletin issued by the National Security Council, which is chaired by Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo and also includes the Armed Forces chiefs, the Honduran Government admitted it was true that the Sandinists had invaded or had entered Honduran territory.

[Ortega] If you look at the chronology of events ever since the U.S. Government began to make noise and made up the lie that Nicaragua was attacking, that it was invading Honduras, you will find that constantly and through various spokesmen the Honduran Government denied Washington's assertions and that, finally, there was a communique in which they referred to this incursion by Sandinist soldiers but not in the manner that the Honduran Government... [corrects himself] the U.S. Government depicted it -- as an aggression against Honduras. Instead, there was a different nuance [matiz], so to speak, in Honduras' statement.

Let us remember that ever since mercenary forces have been in Honduran territory, Honduras has issued many communiques noting, on various occasions, that Sandinist forces sometimes enter Honduran territory. [Word indistinct] explain that since there is an area where there are clashes, where there is confrontation, where troops have to move about and operate, and the mercenary forces are in Honduran territory launching their attacks, then there is the possibility, or risk, that some soldier or unit will enter Honduran territory by mistake and that undesirable situations will arise.

[Wong] Mr President, two EPS members who were presented by the Honduran Armed Forces during a press conference said that they had instructions to come to Honduras to attack a counterrevolutionary training center here in Honduras. Therefore, these EPS boys deliberately admitted that the Nicaraguan Army issued instructions to attack the contras operating in Honduran territory. What is your opinion of this?

[Ortega] Well, in first place one must take into account that the contras assert that they have their camps, their bases, in Nicaragua. If (?you look at) reports showing Mr Calero riding a burro along with Mr Bermudez in a contra camp, they assert that the camp is in Nicaraguan territory. Therefore, Nicaragua is interested in fighting the mercenary forces and occupying their camps. In other words, this is a defensive line of the Nicaraguan Government which is pursued by our Army.

Now then, regarding the existence or nonexistence of the camps in Honduran territory, well, as I said, this is an assertion by the counterrevolutionaries -- if you say that their camps are not there, see? On the other hand, there being a confrontation in the border area, from which the mercenary forces launch their attacks from Honduran territory toward Nicaraguan territory, what do we find then? We find that this territorial area, that that territorial area gradually becomes a war zone [se va convirtiendo en una zona de guerra], not because Nicaragua wants this but because the very activity of the counterrevolutionaries makes it so. This gives rise to military operations by our Army in the entire border area where, logically, our fighters look for the contra camps because the camps are the life source of the contras. Hitting at the source obviously means that there is less likelihood of the contras being able to carry out larger actions against our people like destroying schools, destroying health centers, murdering women or children, which is what they actually come to do here in Nicaragua.

[Wong] Mr President, by admitting that the border area between Honduras and Nicaragua would become, or becomes because of the circumstances you point out, a war zone, does this mean that your country's Army will not hesitate to attack Honduran territory every time that it is known, that is, when you think that there are counterrevolutionary elements here?

[Ortega] What we want or expect is that these mercenary forces will be controlled and will cease to operate out of Honduran territory against Nicaragua. This is what we want. Also, we have made a concrete proposal and have already formally sent it to the Contadora and Lima Groups. It deals with the creation of a commission for supervision and control along the border area under the auspices of the Contadora and Lima Group countries. Of course, we need the approval of the Honduran Government on this.

We hope that the Honduran Government will consider this proposal. (?In fact), the Honduran Government has considered this proposal on previous occasions. We have even talked with representatives of the Honduran Government on various occasions. Let us say, I think we held our first discussion on this topic in the year 1980 or 1981, when we met at (Guasaule) with General Policarpo Paz and all Army commands. [Words indistinct] a situation that could develop. We talked about joint patrolling at the border area to stop incursions from north to south and from south to north and to maintain control over the border.

Therefore, this is actually the same proposal except that it has been made now in view of the existence of the Contadora Group and the Lima Group, which would strengthen this idea, if we manage to work this out. We believe that if this matter of the commission for supervision and control at the border territory can be worked out we would be taking concrete steps to keep tension from increasing over the situation at the border area.

[Wong] Mr President, you talk about the need for the Honduran Government and Army to control or eradicate the counterrevolutionary groups in Honduras. Now I want to remind you of something. This control is very difficult. Between 1974 and 1978 when the FSLN initiated the war against the Somozist dictatorship, many thousands of Sandinists operated from Honduras territory, and at that time Somoza also said that Honduras served as a sanctuary for the Sandinists. The Honduran Army could never control the Sandinists, save a few who were captured. However, the majority of the Sandinists could not be controlled. Do you not believe that the same situation is repeating itself now with the counterrevolutionaries?

[Ortega] I would say that there is not the slightest comparison, because at that time I had an experience in Honduras. I participated in the creation of the northern front, a guerrilla front in Nicaraguan territory, and we tried to establish a small support base in Honduran territory bordering with Nicaragua. We attempted to do this, but it was impossible. A combined operation by Somoza's Army and the Honduran Army was carried out, and we had to take the base to Nicaraguan territory in the area of Segovia. That is where we established the base because it was impossible, literally impossible to settle in Honduras. We are willing, the Honduran and Nicaraguan Armies are trying to control and eradicate counterrevolutionary activities, and this can be done easily. I say this because I personlly faced this situation, I could not freely enter Honduras; I had to use a clandestine passport, and on one occasion I escaped capture at a Honduran airport. Another time, while on the way to the border with Nicaraguan, there were controls, and we could not pass freely. We had to use a tremendous amount of the clandestinity. It was impossible for us to establish a base, a camp in Honduran territory.

We also tried to establish a logistics base, a place were we could have supplies in the border area where we had the camp in Nicaragua, because we insisted in having the camps in Nicaraguan territory. However, what happened? The people there were captured, Commander German Poares was captured and killed. Pomares was organizing the base and he was captured and the camp dismantled. Honduras would not allow Sandinist activity.

[Wong] Mr President, speaking of the counterrevolutionaries in Honduras, our government has always defended them. According to you, how many Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries operate in Honduran territory?

[Ortega] The counterrevolutionaries say they have as many as 35,000 men and they need arms for them and that a good many of them are unarmed. This is what they say. They say they have this large number of forces in Honduran territory. We feel that the figure is not as large as 35,000 but no less than 5,000. We are talking about more than 5,000 contras who are in [Honduras]. I am not talking about the refugees; they are something else. I am talking about the contras, the military forces organized by the CIA, who have helicopters, large vehicles, CIA advice, and now they are also going to receive U.S. military advisers. This is a mercenary force that surpasses 5,000 troops, and this is why we describe it as another army in Central America.

If we speak of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, we have five armies, an army in each country, and the contra army is the sixth army.

Where are they? They have their bases, their camps, their command posts; they have everything in the Honduran territory bordering on Nicaragua. I understand that this is the situation imposed by the United States on the previous Honduran Government, the Suazo Cordova government, and that it was also programmed by Gen Gustavo Alvarez. They [word indistinct] those mercenary forces thinking that they woudl topple the Sandinist government. We understand this. The fact is that the Americans, Gen Alvarez, and Suazo Cordova sent them there thinking everything would be over quickly, that in a matter of months the Sandinists would be toppled.

The fact is that the U.S. President himself has said that he has no interest in toppling the Sandinists, that he wants to pressure the Sandinists, and he is asking for $100 million for these mercenary forces; he is requesting rockets and radios for these mercenary forces; he is requesting U.S. military advisers for these mercenary forces, which means that we are going to face a very long-term struggle, and those mercenary forces will become increasingly dependent on the United States, a force entrenched in Honduran territory, but with greater technical equipment, with greater material resources, making themselves practically the owners of Honduran territory.

[Wong] Does this mean, Mr President, that $100 million is sufficient for the contras to topple the Sandinist government?

[Ortega] I do not believe that $100 million or $500 million is sufficient. They can approve $100 or $500 million for the contras. It will not topple the Sandinist government. What I am looking at is that the financing has not served because they have received more than $100 million in all of these years. What happens? They are stealing the money, and the American press has reported that [Adolfo] Calero, one of the top contra leaders, is getting involved in millions of dollars of business ventures, doing business with the money they receive. They steal the money. They have no morals or capacity to combat and defeat our people.

What they can do is enter the country to murder the people, to destroy health centers, schools, cooperatives, but they have no possibility even if they get arms, even if they introduce military (?advisers). Proof of this is that the United States is becoming increasingly involved in this conflict. [Words indistinct] are no good. They are becoming increasingly involved, and now they come with advisers. Later they will come with troops. This is what we are facing.

[Wong] Mr President, there is an internal war between the Sandinist Army and what you describe as the counterrevolution, although they identify themselves as FDN and ARDE. However, we are noticing that this is a war of attrition. For example, a few days ago the FDN destroyed a very important electric plant, I believe in a town called Yalaguina, which left over 100,000 people without electricity. Do you not believe that this sabotage will at some point weaken the Sandinist regime?

[Ortega] We must take into account that Latin American economies are weak at this time, very weak. The powerful economies in Latin America are facing a tremendous crisis, the result of the international economic crisis, the result of the U.S. international economic order policies, the result of the Latin American countries' debts. We also have the oil problem; oil has dropped to $10 and $6 and this is a catastrophe for the oil-producing countries in Latin America.

Nicaragua's crisis is worsened by contra activities. However, these activities will never mean the destruction of the Nicaraguan revolution because Nicaragua has broad international solidarity, we receive cooperation from Latin American countries, Canada, Europe, the socialist bloc countries, and Arab countries. We receive a broad range of cooperation that allows us to maintain our country despite great difficulties and despite the damages caused to our economy by the U.S. Government's terrorist policies.

[Wong] Does that mean, Mr President, that the aid you are getting from the socialist bloc countries is a result of the situation the United States has imposed on Nicaragua?

[Ortega] Our policy includes maintaining relations with all of the world's countries. This includes political and economic relations.

I believe that is the option that small countries like ours have. For example: What economic problem is the United States helping Costa Rica, Honduras, or any other Central American country resolve? Is it resolving their economic problems? Their situation does not include a military problem like the one Nicaragua is experiencing. The United States cannot resolve Latin America's economic problem. The Latin American countries are experiencing a tremendous crisis. Latin America is protesting en masse the way in which the United States handles the area's economic problem.

Small countries must seek pluralist economic relations. They must maintain economic relations with Latin America, Canada, Western Europe, socialist Europe, the Soviet Union, the Arab countries, economic relations with the entire world. That is why Nicaragua maintains pluralist relations. We would like to have similar relations with the United States. The United States has rejected these relations. This kind of broad, pluralist international cooperation helps the Nicaraguan revolution and people to defend itself from the U.S. aggression. Spain recently approved important credit lines for Nicaragua. Socialist bloc countries, including the Soviet Union, also approved credit lines in our favor. We find that Western European countries have positive attitudes toward Nicaragua. They are allies of the United States, but they disagree with its policy toward Nicaragua. Socialist bloc countries are also helping Nicaragua.

[Wong] Mr President, when you speak about attrition we observe that you do not seem very concerned. Is this in response to something that international observers have said and that revolutionary leaders have been saying for a long time, namely, that the Nicaraguan counterrevolution is helping to strengthen Nicaragua's Sandinist government because all revolutions need a counterrevolution to prop it up?

[Ortega] To a certain extent, the counterrevolution and Reagan's policy have helped strengthen the Nicaraguan people's collective conscience, unity, and spirit of sacrifice. Although the contras constantly repeat that the Sandinist government is bad, that the Sandinist government is to blame for the economic crisis because it is a poor administrator -- they are always saying that -- the people do not believe this because they see the facts.

We do not need to say much to make the people aware of the real situation. The people realize that there, where there had never been a health center before, a health center, a school, a farming cooperative, farming equipment arrived with the revolution. Then they see that the mercenary forces sent by Reagan -- which he likes to call freedom fighters -- arrive and destroy the machinery, the health center, the school, the cooperative. The people see that the revolution makes efforts to progress, and does, while the counterrevolution makes efforts to destroy, and does.

[Wong] However, Mr President, didn't the same thing occur when the FSLN was attempting to overthrow the Somoza government?

[Ortega] We never staged that kind of action. We never destroyed schools because that would have made us an enemy of the people. Whoever destroys schools, peasants' property, becomes an enemy of the people. These people arrive, and if a peasant is growing coffee, they want him to stop growing coffee, and if the peasant does not obey, they destroy his farm or murder him, as they have done with many private growers here. They have murdered many private growers in northern Nicaragua. They have destroyed their coffee farms. Owners of large cattle ranches have been hurt by the counterrevolution. Their relatives have been killed, their farms destroyed, and their animals slaughtered. Those are truly terrorist actions against the people. The FSLN never did that.

[Wong] What did the FSLN destroy during its struggle to overthrow the Somoza dictatorship?

[Ortega] The FSLN was very cautious in the way it confronted Somoza's guards. It fought against Somoza's guard, Somoza's interests.

[Wong] Mr President, the Sandinists seem to be concerned about the presence of foreign military advisers in Honduras. In this case we are referring to U.S. military advisers. However, there are reports of a massive presence of Cuban advisers and advisers from other socialist bloc countries in Nicaragua. There is therefore a balance of foreign advisers in the two countries, with the difference being that in Honduras they are Americans and in Nicaragua they are Cuban or Soviet.

[Ortega] We are not concerned that Honduras has military advisers from the United States or any other country or about how many advisers there are. That does not worry us. We believe that is a right each country has. Each state is entitled to bring in military advisers, to have military support and military resources supplied by another country. Every country has that right. That depends on the relations each country has with whoever supplies that support.

What makes this a serious matter is the fact that a situation of confrontation exists between the United States and Nicaragua. The United States is using Honduran territory to attack Nicaragua. Now it is using American forces stationed in Honduras -- including their means, like helicopters piloted by Americans -- to support the mercenary forces. That is what worries Nicaragua: the conflict. If there were no conflict between Nicaragua and the United States we would not be concerned about the fact that Honduras chooses to bring in a thousand U.S. military advisers, or that Costa Rica wants to bring in military advisers. If our relations were not complicated by U.S. behavior we would not be concerned. However, the U.S. Government is showing a trend that always seeks to attack Nicaragua. It maintains a group of mercenaries in Honduran territory to attack Nicaragua. That totally complicates the picture.

In any event, Nicaragua has maintained its willingness -- and we continue to maintain it -- to withdraw all of the foreign military advisers from Central America, eliminate all the military bases in Central America, and reject the holding of military maneuvers with foreign military forces. That will make Central America a neutral zone, an area of peace that will be free of all foreign military presence. Nicaragua has that desire, and it has expressed it to the Central American governments on a bilateral basis. It has also expressed it at the meetings of the Contadora Group and the Lima Support Group.

[Wong] Mr President, most Hondurans do not want war with Nicaragua, because a war with Nicaragua, or any other country, does not help a country that has a weak economy, such as Honduras. Likewise, the majority of Hondurans do not support the idea that a U.S. invasion against Nicaragua might be planned from here. In other words, the majority of Hondurans feel the self-determination of the Nicaraguans should be respected. However, we are concerned about the serious indications that on several occasions the FSLN has infiltrated destabilizing individuals against the Honduran democratic system, claiming that Honduras has the counterrevolutionary groups in its territory. To this effect, we -- as members of this people who want to live in peace with all brother nations -- would like to voice this concern to the effect that by claiming there are counterrevolutionaries here, the FSLN have infiltrated subversive and destabilizing individuals here so that they will affect in some way the democratic system of Honduras. What could you say to that?

[Ortega] I can state that at no time have we established camps of Honduran irregular forces, or revolutionaries, or guerrillas in Nicaraguan territory bordering with Honduras. We have never done that, so it could not be said that if in Honduras there are contra camps, then in Nicaragua we will establish camps of the Honduran guerrillas here. Never, we have never done that. There might be an occasion of some Honduran citizens who are involved in that type of activity and have passed through Nicaragua, just like they might have passed through any other Central American country, going from south to north or from north to south. They might have reached Honduras, passing through the Central American countries neighboring Honduras. However, these are very isolated cases, and the Nicaraguan Government does not have a policy to the effect of promoting that type of activity.

When we bring up this issue of the supervision and control of border areas commission, when we bring up the issue of joint patrolling with the Honduran Army, we do this in the spirit that we are closing right there any such possibilities. There we would be closing right there any such possibilities. There we would be closing possibilities. There we would be closing possibilities that there would be any infiltrations from north to south, and from south to north. That measure would be of mutual benefit.

[Wong] Mr President, international observers and very reliable sources insist that the increase of weapons in Nicaragua and the growth of the EPS is very alarming. Right now Nicaragua has a capacity to fight all the Central American armies put together, from Panama to Guatemela. If the Nicaraguan economy is so weak and has so many difficulties, precisely because of the presence of the counterrevolution, why is there not a balanced growth in that aspect? Nicaragua has a tendency to invest practicaly all Nicaraguan resources in purchasing weapons and increasing the potential of the EPS.

[Ortega] I would like to clarify to you that Nicaragua does not purchase weapons. We have not spent a single cent in purchasing weapons.

[Wong] Who is supplying you with weapons, Mr President?

[Ortega] The friendly countries give them to us. The countries that are friends of Nicaragua are giving us the weapons. We have not spent a single penny. The rifles do not cost us a single cent, the tanks do not cost us a cent, the artillery does not cost us a cent, and the helicopters do not cost us a cent. We have not paid a single cent for the armaments, but rather these weapons are a generous cooperation from friendly countries that want to help Nicaragua defend itself when it is being attacked by a powerful country, such as the United States of America. Naturally, we have invested heavy resources in defense. There are the human resources, particularly, the loss of human life is very high as a result of the U.S. aggression through the mercenary forces. We have developed an army that is completely defensive to face those mercenary forces.

The truth is that no other Central American country is facing this situation, of having a power supporting an irregular force, such as this mercenary force. No power in the world is supporting an irregular force so that it will attack another Central American country. No other power in the world is dicussing in its own congress, how to attack a Central American country, except for the United States, which is discussing in its congress how to attack the Nicaraguan revolution. They are discussing the best manner of killing the Nicaraguan revolution, with discussions that violate international order and law.

Now then, the way the United States is handling the confrontation of the irregular forces -- and this something well known to the Honduran military -- is that in order to confront the irregular forces it is necessary to have a ratio of 10 to 1. In other words, you need 10 soldiers of the army to confront an irregular force, due to its characteristics, the way irregular war moves.

Now then, if Reagan is hoping to strengthen a mercenary force of 35,000, 30,000, 35,000 -- and Reagan has clearly spoken about 30,000 to 35,000 men -- then in order to confront 35,000 men, with the U.S. ratio of 10 to 1, we need 350,000 men in order to confront that mercenary force of 35,000. But right now, (?I do not know) if they have 5,000 or 10,000 men; well then, we also need a ratio of 10 to 1 in order to face that mercenary force. That explains why there is a massive participation in the defense of the Nicaraguan revolution.

[Wong] Mr President, how many men does the EPS have right now, including troops, militia members, and volunteers?

[Ortega] The EPS, as such, is a small force. The large massive force here is the people. Here, we have the confidence, the certainty that we can give the weapons to the peasants, to the people, and this does not go against the government. We are not afraid that the people will rise up against the government. Here, we have been distributing thousands of rifles to the peasants. We have distributed thousands of rifles among the people, in order for them to defend themselves. The people are defending themselves. The Army is relatively small compared to the armed militia of our country.

[Wong] In other words, you are not afraid that at any moment, the Nicaraguan people will choose another option and use the same weapons you have distributed to them for fighting the Sandinist government?

[Ortega] We are not afraid of that. The day the people decide to end this government they can easily do it, because they have weapons in their hands. Here, there are over 200,000 rifles in the hands of the people; over 200,000 rifles in the hands of the people, imagine that. The rifles are in the hands of the peasants, the workers, all over the place. The people want more weapons, naturally, because they feel they are being threatened, and they want to defend themselves. We cannot build up an army of 200,000 men. That would be too expensive for the country. The country's budget could not take that. Thus, our defense rests on the organized people. We have an army that is small, relatively speaking.

[Wong] Mr President, with the victory of the FSLN government over the Somoza dictatorship, we always understood that there were various ideological factions within the FSLN. Later, when the FSLN took over power, we observed how these factions (?faded away) and the other factions accused the Marxist branch of having seized control of power. This is the way you broke with Commander Cero. Why did the FSLN government decide to adopt a radical stand toward Marxism?

[Ortega] In the first place, this issue of the factions and so forth, that is a lie, an exaggeration of facts. True, there are some facts there, but these are the normal contradictions that are evident in a political organization. There is no political organization in the world that does not have different points of view, and they voice them in the various contradictions. Then, here, in applying the government platform of the FSLN, there were many discussions. Some did not want us to give the land to the peasants. Some people, like Pastora, did not want us to distribute the land among the peasants. Pastora had been a landholder, he owned an estate, and naturally he felt his interests were being affected when we distributed the land among the peasants. Many did not want us to affect the latifundists. We had a commitment with the peasants, to distribute the land among them, even if we affected the latifundists. The land owners had to be affected, and we did affect them. Thus, that provoked negative results among some people who had not accepted that.

We decided to nationalize the banks, the natural resources. Some people did not agree with that.

They thought the revolution only meant removing Somoza and continuing in the same manner, without nationalizing the banks and the natural resources, without distributing the land, protecting the landholders. Naturally, this provoked a conflict between those who thought the revolution only meant removing Somoza. When they noticed the revolution was distributing land among the peasants and beginning to affect the landholders, that it was protecting the land tenants, that the revolution was planning to nationalize the banks, exports, and natural resources, then this created negative reactions on the part of those who were not truly interested in the revolution helping the people. That is natural, all revolutions encounter these situations. As I have said before, when there is a social issue, an human issue, a moral issue that goes beyond individual interests, then we come across the same situation.

For example, Jesus Christ was first surrounded by a group of apostles and later there was a traitor, there was Judas. Even Christ had a Judas. Now, imagine in a revolution like this one we also find traitors such as him.

[Wong] Mr President Ortega, we think that the Marxist definition of the Sandinist government makes precarious a system that could be ideal to these underdeveloped countries such as the mixed economy system, because we see that there are daily reports in Nicaragua regarding the arrest of businessmen, the confiscation of goods, and attacks on the freedom of the press against the only opposition newspaper, that is, LA PRENSA. Mr President Ortega, does this imply that the Sandinist government, I mean the FSLN of this government, will not tolerate a mixed economy in Nicaragua?

[Ortega] Well, we have defended the mixed economy system and will continue to do that, we continue to defend a mixed economy. The truth is that in Nicaragua we have promoted agrarian reform, not to establish a great state enterprise, but to distribute land among the peasants. Therefore, where there was previously an owner of a large estate, that is, an owner of 10,000 manzanas of land, there are now 1,000 peasants who own those 10,000 manzanas.

That is, before there was only one person who owned 10,000 manzanas of land; now 1,000 peasants own their own plots of land at the expense of a large estate owner. We are actually, in a certain way, multiplying private property to benefit the peasants, not large estate owners who only owned idle land for recreational purposes and was poorly exploited. We are now giving land to the peasants and turning them into landowners; therefore private property has been multiplied in our country.

If you (?examine) our agricultural production, you would find that 80 percent of that production is in the hands of a private, patriotic sector belonging to the National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen. That is, 80 percent of the production of coffee, cattle, and cotton is in the hands of peasants, of small- and medium-size peasants, and even some large-scale efficient producers.

The mixed economy element is also present in the industrial sector. We could say that there is a 50-50 split. We are not interested in eradicating the mixed economy model; quite the contrary, we are reaffirming it. However, the media continues to publish political news in their own style; I have LA PRENSA and BARRICADA with me; I have LA PRENSA's Wednesday, 2 April edition in my hands.

[Wong] You mean LA PRENSA of the Chamorro family?

[Ortega] The Chamorro family, that is correct. They report on the activity of the Social Christian Party [PSC]. This party [word indistinct] statute reforms.

The PSC refused to participate in the elections. [Words indistinct] nobody persecutes them for that. There are no measures against freedom of the press. There are controls due to the situation we are experiencing; we cannot allow reporting as if the country were living in normal conditions, as if we had no war or no aggression.

[Wong] LA PRENSA has complained that the government has even censored news regarding the activity of the holy father, John Paul II. If the Sandinist government believes that news regarding the pope is dangerous to the stability of Nicaragua, could we assume that other news deemed to be even more dangerous could actually lead to the final closure of the paper?

[Ortega] That is not true; that is an exaggeration by LA PRENSA, because [words indistinct] LA PRENSA has featured Msgr (John Paul Gol), the secretary of the apostolic nunciature, on the front page. He has been sent to other places [word indistinct] in Honduras and Nicaragua. He is being sent to other places. LA PRENSA yesterday published a large picture of the Holy Week's via crucis religious activities. There is no religious persecution. We do not murder priests; not even one priest has been murdered since the triumph of the revolution. Somoza murdered priests before the revolution. LA PRENSA reported on the via crucis and on the people who participated. That statement you made is an exaggeration.

[Wong] However, Mr President, Msgr Obando y Bravo is complaining that there is persecution by the Sandinist regime against the Catholic Church, especially against him and Priest Bismark Carballo, the archbishopric curiate spokesman.

[Ortega] Due to the characteristics of the process here, many priests and religious people are involved in political matters. Therefore, you find priests involved in political activities defending the revolution and others criticizing the revolution. That is part of the pluralism and freedom of thought that must exist; it shows the priests and Msgr Obando y Bravo himself are free to express their thoughts because, after all, they are Nicaraguans and can rightfully express their views.

Therefore, when Msgr Obando y Bravo speaks his mind, he is expressing a political view. In fact, there is no religious persecution of any kind. If you consult the bishops in our country other than Msgr Obando y Bravo -- he is one of the 10 bishops here in Nicaragua, and each bishop has his own diocese -- if you talk with the bishops of each diocese, you will find out that there are no major problems in each diocese and that there are no religious problems in Managua. Actually, there is a political controversy.

[Wong] Why are you not allowing Radio Catolica to air Msgr Obando y Bravo's homilies?

[Ortega] No, Radio Catolica was punished because it violated rules established by the Media Directorate on several occasions. The station itself acknowledged that it violated the rules; that it made a human mistake. There is a note by the Radio Catolica directorate admitting that. Therefore, when laws are violated, punishment follows. There are pacifist priests in U.S. jails now for demonstrating against Reagan's policy in Nicaragua. They are captured for violating the law. This happens in the United States, which claims to be very democratic and free. Priests are jailed and tried for simply protesting. In Nicaragua, we have simply enforced the law without jailing anyone; we simply took measures against a station that violated the law.

[Wong] Mr President, do you think that the events that have taken place at the border area, specifically in eastern Honduras and northern Nicaragua, could lead to more regrettable results? Specifically, could they lead to a direct war between Honduras and Nicaragua?

[Ortega] I think that they will never lead to a war between Honduras and Nicaragua. However, I do think that they could lead to a war between the United States and Nicaragua. That is very clear. The North Americans are mobilizing their helicopters, sending military advisers to mercenary bases; as U.S. military advisers are killed, as we down U.S. helicopters for flying in combat and conflict areas, the North Americans get increasingly involved in an attempt to save the contras and in reaction to Nicaraguan defensive measures. We could be faced by a war between the United States and Nicaragua.

We face the risk of the Vietnamization of the conflict. The Vietnamization of the conflict has started, because the United States is using military resources it has in Honduras to protect mercenary forces.

[Wong] Some time ago a Honduran helicopter which overflew the border accidentally due to a strong wind in Nicaraguan territory, which carried Honduran civilians having nothing to do with the counterrevolution and the Army, people who came from the southern area of Isla del Tigre, was downed, and, as a result, five or six Hondurans were killed. Do you not think that Nicaragua's fear is exaggerated to the point that it does not fully identify between a war aircraft and another that does not pose any threat to Nicaraguan territory?

[Ortega] You might recall that Gen Gustavo Alvarez was commander of the Air Force at that time.

[Wong] No, Mr President, excuse me for interrupting you, but General Walter Lopez was already in command then.

[Ortega] Yes, Walter Lopez. The problem is that the switch was a recent one. There was very great tension during the tenure of Gen Alvarez between Honduras and Nicaragua. I must admit that. When Gen Walter Lopez took over, the situation began to (?ease). However, tension inherited from the previous commander had not been totally overcome. In addition, there was also a lack of communication allowing us to avert regrettable situations such as that one. I think that these factors had a bearing on the situation.

[Wong] Then you justify such an attack and the death of Honduran civilians.

[Ortega] No, I do not justify it. I lament the death of the Honduran citizens traveling on that helicopter. It does not make us happy. It does not make us happy. [repeats himself] I think it was an unfortunate incident. Unfortunately, there was a situation of tension in the border territory. At that time there was much tension with the United States. You must know that we have a problem of permanent tension with the United States. It has been threatening us with attacks and with bombings. It deploys its warships a few miles from our coasts and uses its airplanes and helicopters for overflights. Therefore, there is a constant tension and alert by our Armed Forces, and such a tension can provoke such an unfortunate situation.

[Wong] Mr President, what opinion do your commanders of the Sandinist revolution and you as president of Nicaragua have about the recent change in the command of the Honduran Armed Forces, considering that in the Honduran army it is a key position for deciding the state of the relations between Honduras and Nicaragua? We now have General Humberto Regalado Hernandez as commander of the Honduran Armed Forces. What analysis have you undertaken? Do you think he is more dangerous or less dangerous than Alvarez Martinez?

[Ortega] We are respectful of the decisions of the Honduran Armed Forces. We have spoken with President Azcona.

We spoke with him in Guatemala during the inauguration of President Vinicio Cerezo, and we expressed our respect for the decisions adopted by the Honduran Government and Armed Forces. We hope that the Honduran Armed Forces will maintain a position in favor of peace, the normalization of relations between Nicaragua and Honduras, and the eradication of the mercenaries from the Honduran territory.

[Wong] But President Azcona has already asked the U.S. Government for military aid to repel the Sandinist aggressions. What is your opinion of our president's request to the U.S. Government?

[Ortega] I think these are elements that emerged in an arbitrary manner from the United States. The United States was the one that announced this matter about the $20 million to help Honduras. The truth is that this has been nothing but a means used by the North Americans to get more directly involved in an action to protect and defend the mercenary forces that are being defeated by our forces.

[Wong] Thank you for being so nice as to grant us such a long interview. I would like to ask you this question. Here in Honduras there is much speculation about the internal situation of the Nicaraguan Government. It is said that you and your brother, Humberto, do not have a great relationship with Commander Borge, that there is very marked and evident jealousy over the power that Borge holds, and that there is an estrangement between you and your brother and Commander Tomas Borge Martinez. How true is this? What can you tell us, because apparently cordial relations between you and commander Borge no longer exist?

[Ortega] That is totally false. That exists only in the minds of the CIA experts who spread such rumors to try to give the impression that in Nicaragua there is division and instability so that in this way they can promote a confrontation that will enable the United States to utilize it to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution. That is totally false. No such thing exists among the leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution. There is the greatest harmony and brotherhood. We have common viewpoints. We discuss. We disagree on some occasions. We discuss and in the end we reach agreement. We act in a rational and reasonable way.

[Wong] Mr President, is there any possibility that the Sandinist government will hold a dialogue with the counterrevolution?

[Ortega] Well we have insisted that we must speak with the chief of the counterrevolution, and he is the U.S. President. The chiefs of the counterrevolution are in Washington. It is in Washington where the support for the contras is being discussed. It is in Washington where they are discussing whether to grant $100 million, $70 million for military aid, $30 million for humanitarian aid; it is in Washington where there is talk of sending U.S. military advisers to the contras. Therefore, we must speak with Washington. We must speak with Washington, which is the chief of the counterrevolution. In other words, the Robelos, the Cruz, the Caleros, the Bermudez are just the instruments of the counterrevolution. They are instruments that cannot exist without the master, which is the United States, which is the one that decides, pays, fees, directs, and arms them. Without that support, the counterrevolution would disappear. Therefore, we have to speak with the chiefs of the counterrevolution.

[Wong] What about the people who are fighting there on the border area and the Nicaraguan mountains?

[Ortega] I repeat that we are willing to speak with the United States. With regard to these people who are involved in armed activities, we have a very broad amnesty. We promulgated it in January 1985 and we have been maintaining it since then, so that all those people, without exception, who are directly or indirectly involved in the armed counterrevolutionary activity can take advantage of the amnesty.

Therefore, there is a broad amnesty. It remains in force. More than 1,500 Nicaraguans have taken advantage of that amnesty. In other words, more than 1,500 people involved in armed counterrevolutionary activity have taken advantage of that amnesty, and they are now working. The revolution even gives out land to those who are peasants so they can work. It provides them with job opportunities so they will not be unemployed. That is the answer that we have for them.

[Wong] Mr President, 2 days ago the Honduran Congress approved a motion to urge the Nicaraguan congress to issue an amnesty for all the Nicaraguan political prisoners. Do you think the Nicaraguan Government will accept this request from the Honduran Congress?

[Ortega] Of course we bear in mind the Honduran Congress' request. What we have done here is to gradually release many prisoners through partial pardons. That is what we have done. We will report this to the Honduran Congress so it will be aware of the efforts Nicaragua is carrying out in this regard. Now we cannot think about a total amnesty for all prisoners because we are experiencing a situation of confrontation. If peace comes, if there was no war or aggression, then conditions woud exist to think about that.

[Wong] Mr President, this lengthy interview that you have granted to us on the air has been heard by the great majority of the Hondurans because you have spoken on Radio America, the station that has been proven to have the greatest audience in Honduras. This lengthy interview, which is the result of your request to make a clarification about the border area incidents, has been possible thanks to the unlimited freedom of expression of thought and freedom of information in Honduras. If in the future, someone from here in Honduras would like to speak over a Nicaraguan media that is not official, would he be permitted to do so?

[Ortega] I would say even in the official media. The state radio is at the disposal of the president of Honduras; if the Honduran president wants to speak however long he wishes, he has at his disposal the state radio to grant an interview like this one. It is also at the disposal of the commander of the Honduran Armed Forces. The news media are open for the opinion of the Honduran leaders.

[Wong] In conclusion, we leave Radio America's mike open to you if you want to make a final statement. Before this, I would like to thank you for being so nice in answering questions for this lengthy and intense interview.

[Ortega] Well, I want to thank Radio America for the opportunity to talk with the Honduran people. I want to tell the Honduran people once again that we are brother peoples. We are brother peoples and there is no reason why the Central American peoples, the Honduran and Nicaraguan peoples in particular, should be in conflict or have problems. Nicaragua will never. will never attack Honduras. It will never attack Honduras. Nicaragua hopes that with the government of President Azcona and the leadership of the Armed Forces we can overcome this situation, which is the product of the presence of the mercenary forces and their camps in Honduran territory and their launching of attacks against Nicaragua. We know that this situation has been inherited by the Honduran Government from the previous administration, which was the one that accepted the development of this U.S. plan to establish those mercenary forces in Honduran territory. Nicaragua's doors are open to all the Hondurans. They can come to our country without any restrictions. Let the Hondurans come to our country to see Nicaragua's reality, to see whether or not there is political pluralism, to see whether or not there is religious persecution, to see whether or not there is press freedom and trade union freedom.

In other words, Nicaragua's doors are open. Our borders are open so all Hondurans who wish can come to our country. We are confident that in a not too distant future we will have overcome this situation of tensions and crisis and that peace will exist in Central America.

[Wong] Well, at least today you have to open the door for Honduran Economy Secretary Reginaldo Panting. He is going to collect $55 million that Nicaragua owes Honduras and that, according to our government, Nicaragua apparently does not want to pay us right now.

[Ortega] It is not that we do not want to pay, but the problem is that we are all debtors here. [chuckles] In other words, Nicaragua owes Honduras, Honduras owes Guatemala and other countries. It is a chain of debts. Even the big Latin American countries, Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina, are the big debtors. They have the biggest debts. Can you imagine that we small countries wouldn't have debts? If the Argentines, the Mexicans, the Venezuelans, and the Brazilians have multimillion debts, how could we small countries not have debts?

[Wong] Mr President, when will Nicaragua pay its debt to Honduras?

[Ortega] Well, we will talk with him now to find a formula that is in line with our financial situation. It is as if Honduras' creditors came and told Honduras to pay what it owes. It would be unable to do so. Honduras would be unable to pay all that it owes. Costa Rica would also be unable to pay all that it owes. Guatemala would also be unable to pay all that it owes. Not even Argentina, Brazil, or those countries could pay all that they owe. They cannot pay even part of what they owe. The crisis is big. Therefore, we have to find reasonable formulas to deal with this economic problem, which is a common financial problem for all the Central American countries. Above all, we must promote a policy of trade and see how we can make the Central American economy more dynamic, because the Central American problem will be gradually resolved to the extent that we have an effective economic policy with some autonomy, with better interrelation, and, therefore, we can achieve a strong economy.

[Wong] Very well, Mr President. Thank you for calling us at Radio America. It has been a pleasure to speak with you, and we hope that this will not be either the first or the last time that we have the opportunity to exchange views and to have you submit to a real bombardment of questions so we can inform our people about a number of situations that exist between these two peoples who have traditionally been brothers linked by geography and the brotherhood among the Central American countries. Thank you very much and good day.

[Ortega] Thank you very much.

U.S. RECIPE FOR CHILEAN SITUATION 'MAY FAIL'

PA040040 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Apr 86

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The angry popular protests in Chile and the armed actions against Augusto Pinochet's regime have reached such a point that Washington has openly asked itself whether it should enforce the same recipe it used in Haiti and the Philippines in Chile. At least this is what Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, said a few days ago when a document on violations of human rights in Chile was presented by the United States in Geneva. All this indicates that Washington is thinking about washing its hands of Chile and at the same time trying to make the world forget that it was the White House and the Yankee intelligence organizations that planned, financed, and promoted the September 1973 coup d'etat that unleashed the worst sufferings ever for the Chilean people. His Yankee bosses seem to think that Pinochet has fulfilled his role and that in the face of the uncontrollable popular anger that no longer avoids repression but rather confronts it, changes are necessary to prevent, according to Reagan, the Marxists from once again taking over power.

The White House residents are obviously frightened by fierce demonstrations like the one staged by the Chilean women on 8 March and the demonstrations staged to repudiate the beheading, by the police, of communist youths Jose Manuel Parada, Manuel Guerrero and Santiago Latino 12 months ago. These two good examples of the levels of the popular struggle in Chile despite the brutal repression are combined with a growing wave of armed actions that have materialized in bombings of official installations, the power system, and police and army garrisons. A few days ago these bombings reached a record figure of 40 bombings in 24 hours.

The Machiavellian minds of the Reagan crew compare these situations with those that exploded in Haiti and the Philippines on the days before the fall of Jean-Claude Duvalier and Ferdinand Marcos, and are undoubtedly preparing the same recipe for the Chilean situation. To do this, they are probably already looking for people in the rightist sectors who are most willing to forget the past in exchange for their former privileges. The only difference is that in Chile there are different factors that must be considered, and these are the traditional organization and political awareness of the people. This could make the absurd imperial maneuvers fail.

AREA OPPOSITION TO U.S. CONTRA AID NOTED

FL031807 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] The Latin American continent has continued to score Reagan administration's policy in Central America. A Socialist International regional conference, which began in Santo Domingo, gave international support to Nicaragua in its clashes with the United States. In a press release, the Mexican Foreign Secretariat said U.S. support given to anti-Sandinist counterrevolutionary bands should end. In Buenos Aires, President Raul Alfonsin criticized U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan contras and opposed Reagan's policy which encourages armed actions in Central America. He told this to Thomas O'Neill, who visited Argentina during a Latin American tour. O'Neill denied having changed his position in opposing U.S. aid to the contras and said diplomacy cannot be practiced with a shotgun.

BAHAMAS

CHANGES WEAKEN NO CONFIDENCE VOTE ON PINDLING

FL032244 Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 27 Mar 86, p 1

[Text] An opposition resolution for a vote of no confidence in Prime Minister Lynden Pindling has been emasculated. When the House of Assembly's agenda for next Wednesday was released yesterday, it was discovered that someone, presumably the speaker, had extracted the "teeth" of the material. Eight of the 20 paragraphs contained in the resolution had been altogether "expunged." It is understood that the speaker may inform the opposition that these matters have already debated and there is a rule that says the same matters cannot be dealt with more than once in the same session. FNM [Free National Movement] spokesman Arthur Foulkes said the opposition has noticed the changes in the resolution and it intends to deal with the matter when the house meets Wednesday.

Among those paragraphs deleted include reference to the fact that the recent commission of inquiry report evidenced that "the prime minister and his cabinet have failed to govern this nation in a manner which either upholds the rule of the law or exemplifies their adherance to standards of public morality, but have so allowed the increasing prevalence of corruption, influence peddling, bribery, victimization, and abuses of power to go unchecked as so prevade the highest ranks of the government itself." The paragraphs dealing with the prime minister's finances and reference to the family island development fund, from which documents show over $100,000 of a $300,000 payment was diverted into the prime minister's mansion; the commission's findings that one cabinet minister fronted for the mafia and another took payment from a drug trafficker; and commission evidence that the prime minister did not disclose all of his assets in relation to the law, have also been removed. A reference to a reported quote by former Kendal Nottage, to the effect that people should not be interested whether he worked for or stole his money, has been eliminated.

ST LUCIA

COMPTON SAYS HE WILL NOT LEAVE OFFICE

FL031841 Bridgetown CANA in English 1847 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, April 3, CANA -- Prime Minister John Compton used the wrap-up parliamentary debate on his 1986 budget here Tuesday to dispel rumours that he was contemplating giving up the political leadership of the St Lucia Government. Speaking at the end of debate on his 19th budget presentation, Compton, who will be 60 next month, declared: I'll present right up to the 25th...I am still a young man in my teens as far as budgets go. Responding to opposition claims that this would be his last budget before elections, Compton said the life of the current sitting of parliament would end in May 1987 and elections would be called anytime between now and then. Let no one try to preempt the prerogative given to me in the Constitution, he stated.

The other main political group here is the opposition St Lucia Labour Party (SLP), led by businessman Julian Hunte. Compton said that during his 30 years in parliament he had seen the budget grow from EC10 million dollars to 232 million, the allocation for education move from one million to 39 million dollars and the number of children at secondary schools from 1,600 to 7,700. It took a lot to get there and I will not permit this to be destroyed without a fight, he said.

OPPOSITION ISSUES STATEMENT ON FUEL CRISIS

FL030008 Bridgetown CANA in English 2334 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 2, CANA -- The opposition Working Peoples Alliance (WPA) in Guyana today told the government that it must bear full responsibility for the country's fuel crisis.

The party was commenting in a statement issued here on President Desmond Hoyte's linking of the fuel shortage here to the non-purchase of Guyana bulk rice by oil-supplier Trinidad and Tobago.

Hoyte had said Trinidad and Tobago had stopped buying bulk rice from Guyana last December and because of this his government was finding it difficult to pay the twin-island state for the level of supplies needed.

But the WPA, in a statement, said: ... President Hoyte and the People's National Congress (PNC) must bear full responsibility for the present fuel crisis in Guyana.

It added: Since 1981, when Trinidad and Tobago established its oil credit facility to help its Caricom (Caribbean Community) partners, Guyana has been a major beneficiary, but it has failed to honour its debts payments to Port-of-Spain.

At the same time that the PNC was paying no money to Trinidad and Tobago, the WPA said, payments were being made to foreign multinationals like Alcan, Bookers, and Chase Manhattan Bank for nationalised assets.

The party charged that Hoyte's explanation of causes of the fuel crisis in Guyana were, to say the least, lacking in frankness and, in its insinuations, lacking in fairness to the generosity of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

The opposition party said the government has created a scandal of Guyana being the biggest debtor nation to Caricom.

The WPA added: It owes Trinidad and Tobago at least 200 million U.S. dollars. Its indebtedness to the Caricom multilateral clearing facility is almost 100 million U.S. dollars and that indebtedness was a major factor in wrecking the facility.

It owes the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) at least 6 million U.S. dollars in interest payments alone.